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Thursday



Zorn and Portis cleared the air on Wednesday.

Cooler Heads: Portis, Zorn settle differences in meeting | 17

Health Study: 1 in 9 kids turn to alternative medicine | 3



New Stripes: Sabathia agrees to huge contract with Yankees | 17

WeekendPass

Urrrrgh: Run and hide, cover your ears — the rock-wielding space spawns of *Gwar* aren't leaving.

>> **INSIDE**



Jackson Denies 'Pay for Play'

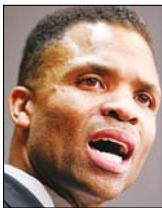
Congressman is ID'd as 'Candidate 5' in Blagojevich scandal

WASHINGTON | Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. said Wednesday he openly sought appointment to Barack Obama's Senate seat but denied offering favors in return to Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and said he was not involved "whatsoever in any wrongdoing."

A lawyer for Jackson acknowledged that the Illinois Democrat is "Senate Candidate 5" in the 76-page federal complaint filed against Blagojevich, who was arrested Tuesday. Wiretapped conversations suggest

Blagojevich felt the candidate would raise campaign money for him in exchange for being appointed to the Senate seat vacated by the president-elect.

Jackson, a seven-term House member and son of civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, told reporters in Washington that he spoke with the U.S. attorney's office Tuesday. "They shared with me that I am not a target of the investigation and that I am not accused of any misconduct," said Jackson.



Jackson

The governor was quoted as saying the person made a "pay to play" proposal, a term for a payment in exchange for a political favor.

Jackson said: "I did not initiate nor authorize anyone, at any time, to promise anything to Gov. Blagojevich on my behalf. I never sent a message or an emissary to the governor to make an offer or to propose a deal about the U.S. Senate seat." (AP)

Greece Defends Response to Riots



IN HARM'S WAY: A woman is caught between stone-throwing rioters and police near the Parliament in Athens, Greece, on Wednesday. As riots sparked by the police shooting death of a teenager continued for a fifth day, the government defended its response. ♦ **Arrests:** Two officers held in shooting | Page 8

DO YOU THINK ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS CAN BE AS EFFECTIVE AS TRADITIONAL MEDICINE? **A** YES **B** NO

TO CAST YOUR VOTE, VISIT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT **A** FOR 'YES' OR **B** FOR 'NO' TO 98999. FOR WEDNESDAY'S POLL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 32

THURSDAY
46 | 39

FRIDAY
44 | 29

SATURDAY
46 | 30

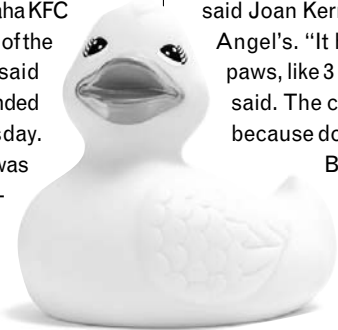
TODAY: Cloudy, rainy and much cooler; snow possible in evening | 34

eyeOpeners

FAST FOOD

Don't Ask What They Did to the Stovetop

Three employees of a California Kentucky Fried Chicken have been suspended for bathing in a deep sink used to clean dishes. The prank was discovered after one of the young women posted photos on a social networking site of the trio posing and cavorting in the steaming water in their underwear and swimwear. The photos were filed in a gallery called "KFC moments." Captions included, "Haha KFC showers!" A manager of the fast-food restaurant said the three were reprimanded and suspended Tuesday. She said no manager was on duty when the photos were taken, as the three had closed the restaurant for the night. (AP)



ANIMALS

Insert 'Claws' Joke

Santa Claus posed with a very large kitty on his lap — and now he might need rabies shots. Jonathan Bebbington was playing the jolly old elf during a Santa Paws photo event at a PetSmart store in New Jersey when he was bitten Sunday on the wrist and hand. The event was to raise money for Penny Angel's Beagle Rescue group. The cat and owner disappeared after the incident. At least one person thought it was a bobcat, said Joan Kerr, president of Penny Angel's. "It had absolutely huge paws, like 3 inches around," Kerr said. The cat appeared terrified because dogs were nearby, said Bebbington, 47. "It had very powerful jaws and big teeth," he said, estimating the cat weighed about 30 pounds. (AP)



SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

THE ECONOMY

Down on Skid Roe

Like the rest of the world, Ukraine is suffering an economic crisis. Delicacies that used to seem affordable are now out of the financial reach of much of the population. But everyone can still pretend life hasn't changed a bit, thanks to enterprising businessmen such as this one. Can't afford a real caviar sandwich? Buy a plastic one from this Kiev vendor — because the whole point of a sandwich is to look at it, after all. Darn it, where's the "irony point" on this keyboard? (EXPRESS)

CRIME

Santa Is a Pro At This

Except for Santa Claus, people trying to take a trip down a chimney don't usually seem to fare so well.

St. Louis police arrested a burglar early Wednesday who spent a harrowing three hours stuck inside the chimney of a pawn shop. Authorities were called to the location at 3 a.m. and found the man wedged in the

chimney, unable to move. After about three hours, rescuers were able to knock away bricks and free him. He was taken to a hospital for evaluation. The man's name has not been released. (AP)

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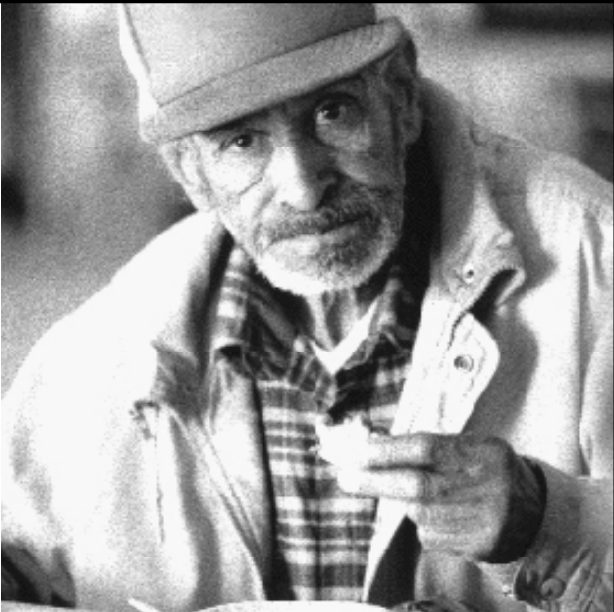
No one should go hungry during the Christmas season — especially when it costs so little to serve a complete meal to a hungry and homeless person.

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SERVING THE NEEDY SINCE 1906

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MEAL TICKET

MEAL TICKET



"I've met thousands of women from many nations, and I've seen that women everywhere have the same dreams."

—First lady Laura Bush, in a speech Wednesday on human rights in New York

Nation

Gov. Jindal Says 2012 Bid Unlikely

Republican wants to stay in La., won't rule out presidential run

RICHMOND, VA. | Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said Wednesday he's not interested in a 2012 Republican presidential bid and will seek a second term as governor in 2011.



Jindal

Jindal, who appeared at a news conference to back Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob McDonnell, was asked whether he was interested in being president. "No," he replied.

Jindal's trip to Iowa last month fueled speculation that he was laying the groundwork for a presidential campaign, and he did not rule out changing his mind over the next few years.

In the wake of Republican losses in Congress and a blowout defeat in the presidential race, Jindal is an early favorite among many Republicans for 2012. He's young and has strong support from conservatives for his income tax-cutting initiatives. Many of them advocated for Sen. John McCain to pick Jindal as his running mate.

Jindal also enjoyed broad-based approval for his handling of back-to-back hurricanes, Gustav and Ike, that menaced his state in August and September. BOB LEWIS (AP)

HEARSAY | TRADITION

"The tradition is that they use all three names [during the swearing-in], and I will follow the tradition."

—PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA, WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD DROP HIS MIDDLE NAME, HUSSEIN, WHEN HE TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE ON JAN. 20.

Survey: Kids Using Alternative Meds

More than 1 in 9 kids, teenagers have tried nontraditional remedies

ATLANTA | Just like their parents, kids are taking herbal supplements from fish oil to ginseng, a sign of just how mainstream alternative medicine has become.

More than one in nine children and teens try those remedies and other nontraditional options, the government said Wednesday in its first national study of young people's use of

these mostly unproven treatments.

Given that children are generally pretty healthy, the finding that so many use alternative medicine is "pretty amazing," said one of the study's authors, Richard Nahin of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The sweeping study suggests about 2.8 million young people use supplements.

Their parents' practices played a big role. Kids were five times more likely to use alternative therapies if a parent or other relative did.

The same study showed that more than a third of adults use alternative treatments, roughly the same as in 2002.

38

The percentage of adults who reported using alternative medicine in 2007, the survey found.

The researchers used a big umbrella in defining alternative medicine: Acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractic, traditional healing, yoga, Pilates, massage and even dieting were included.

Unlike federally regulated medicines, herbal remedies don't have to be proven safe or effective to be sold.

Some doctors are troubled that parents may be giving children alternative therapies in place of proven clinical treatments, said Dr. Wallace Sampson, an emeritus clinical professor of medicine at Stanford University.

"The reality is none of these things work, including some of the more popular ones. They're placebos," Sampson said. MIKE STOBBE (AP)

ENID, OKLA. | DECORATED SERVICE



HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE: Disabled veteran Bob Shaw lays Christmas wreaths on the graves of veterans Wednesday in Enid, Okla. The Enid chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has joined a nationwide program, known as Wreaths Across America, whose goal is to place a wreath on the grave of every American veteran by Dec. 13.

Obama to Blagojevich: Step Down

President-elect joins chorus calling for the governor's resignation

CHICAGO | President-elect Barack Obama called for Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to resign on Wednesday, hours after the embattled governor reported for work amid charges



Obama

he plotted to sell Obama's vacant Senate seat.

Spokesman Robert Gibbs said the president-elect agrees with other prominent politicians in Illinois and elsewhere that "under the current circumstances, it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illinois."

Blagojevich was arrested Tuesday, accused of scheming to enrich himself by selling Obama's open seat for cash or a lucrative job.

Gibbs said Obama believes the Illinois General Assembly should consider how to fill the Senate seat and "put in place a process to select a new senator that will have the trust and confidence of the people of Illinois."

MIKE ROBINSON (AP)

Suspicious Mail Sent to Texas Gov.

AUSTIN, TEXAS | The governor of Texas has become the latest in a string of state chief executives who have received suspicious, but ultimately harmless, packages in the mail.

Gov. Rick Perry's staff said they

received the suspicious envelope on Wednesday.

Officials say the envelope contained a white powder that was determined not to be toxic.

Envelopes contained suspicious powder have been received

this week by governor's offices in Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma and Rhode Island.

Officials in some of those states said the powder was flour, corn starch or some other harmless food substance. (AP)

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Nation

53

The percentage of Americans who say they expect to spend less on holiday gifts this year than they did in 2007, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll released on Wednesday.

Katrina Priorities Disputed

HUD sued over plan to use funds for port instead of Miss. houses

JACKSON, MISS. | Housing advocates and low-income residents sued Wednesday to stop Mississippi from spending a half-billion federal dollars to expand a damaged port rather than replace homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The Mississippi State Conference NAACP, Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center and residents sued the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in federal court in Washington, D.C.

Congressional leaders and others slammed HUD when it approved the state's plan to steer money to the Hurricane Katrina-damaged port despite a lingering housing crisis caused by the 2005 storm.

Gov. Haley Barbour maintains expanding the State Port at Gulfport, the third-busiest container port in the Gulf of Mexico, is key to



The Army Corps of Engineers break ground on a floodwall across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet in New Orleans on Dec. 4.

the region's economic recovery.

The storm surge devastated Mississippi's coast, washing away much of the affordable housing. Three years later, about 6,000 families remain in temporary housing.

"They were just leaving us out to defend for ourselves," said Dorothy McClendon, 59, a disabled former state employee and plaintiff in the

lawsuit who still lives in a trailer provided by the federal government after being denied assistance through the Katrina housing program.

The agency that oversees federally funded Katrina recovery projects has said programs are under way to address the housing situation. SHELIA BYRD (AP)

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Mondavi Private Selection-Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot \$897 750ml	Clos du Bois Chardonnay \$997 750ml	Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve-Chardonnay \$1097 750ml	Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio \$1847 750ml
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Beringer-Wt Zin,Wt Merlot	16.97	Coppola Diamond-Merlot	12.97
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	Strohs-Reg,Light 30pk	13.99	Michelob-Reg Lt,Ult,Ultra	9.99	19.98			
	Yuengling-Lager 24 pk	16.99	Molson-Golden Ice Canadian	12.99	25.98			
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Nation

Study Links Gene To a Bad Appetite

Kids with genetic
variation tend to eat
too many fatty foods

NEW YORK | Scientists may have figured out one reason some people reach for the french fries instead of an apple.

It could be a gene that's been linked to an increased risk of obesity.

A study of children found those with a common variation of the gene tend to overeat high-calorie foods. They ate 100 extra calories per meal, which over the long term can put on weight, said Colin Palmer, who led the study at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

The findings don't mean that everyone with that version of the gene will eat too much and become obese, he said. They just might have a tendency to eat more fattening foods.

"It's still your choice," he said. "This gene will not make you overweight if you do not overeat."

ONE EXPLANATION

→ The researchers found that children in the study with the gene variation FTO showed no difference in metabolic rates, levels of physical activity or the amount of food eaten. "The only thing we could find was the fact that they were eating much richer foods," said researcher Colin Palmer.

→ On average, those with the gene variant ate 100 calories more than those without it. (AP)

Palmer said the results support the theory that childhood obesity today could be connected to the widespread availability and low cost of high-calorie foods. The research is published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Last year, scientists discovered the gene, named FTO, was linked to obesity but they didn't know why. Most of the other genes thought to affect body weight influence appetite. STEPHANIE NANO (AP)

FORT BLISS, TEXAS | WINGED COMPANIONS



SEEING DOUBLE: A security officer guards the space shuttle Endeavour and its ferry, a NASA 747, Wednesday on the tarmac at Biggs Army Airfield. The shuttle spent the night in Texas on its way home to Cape Canaveral, Fla. The shuttle was forced to land in California Nov. 30 when storms hit Florida.

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Office (SAWSO)** CFC# 12084

REAL NEEDS. REAL RESULTS.

37

The number of inmates who were executed in the U.S. this year, the lowest number since 1994, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, which opposes capital punishment. All but four of the executions occurred in Texas and the South.

Nation

Auto Plan Meets Fierce Resistance

Republican senators blast legislation, say they will not support it

WASHINGTON | Emergency aid for the imperiled U.S. auto industry was thrown into jeopardy Wednesday, opposed by Republicans who were revolting against a hard-fought deal between Democrats and the Bush White House to speed \$14 billion to ailing carmakers.

Democrats detailed the compromise measure and laid the groundwork for quick votes on it, holding out hope the bailout could be enacted by week's end. But a growing number of Republican senators declared they would not go along.

The White House, though not formally endorsing an agreement



Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., center, accompanied by other Senate Republicans, speaks Wednesday about the proposed emergency loans for the auto industry.

with congressional Democrats, dispatched administration officials to Congress to make a case for the rescue package. During a

contentious, closed-door luncheon with Senate Republicans, they got an earful of criticism from the rank-and-file, some of whom have

“I think it has minimal, very little support in our caucus.”

SEN. BOB CORKER, R-TENN.

already announced plans to block the measure.

“They got a good dose,” said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., as he emerged from the session.

Even auto state Republicans who have pushed hard for a bailout said the measure needed work. Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., said he wanted to see changes. And Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, said the measure didn't have the necessary Republi-

can votes to pass Congress.

The Republicans' revolt came as the House of Representatives took a procedural vote on the package.

It would provide money within days to cash-starved General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, while Ford Motor Co. — which has said it has enough liquidity to stay afloat — would be eligible for federal aid as well.

Congressional Republicans, left out of negotiations on the package, blasted it. Their opposition reflected the tricky task of enacting yet another federal rescue in a bailout-weary Congress, with Bush's influence on the wane.

“People realize that this bill is an incredibly weak bill, [and] is the product of an administration that wants to kick the can down the road and let somebody else deal with it,” said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn. “I think it has minimal, very little support in our caucus.”

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS (AP)

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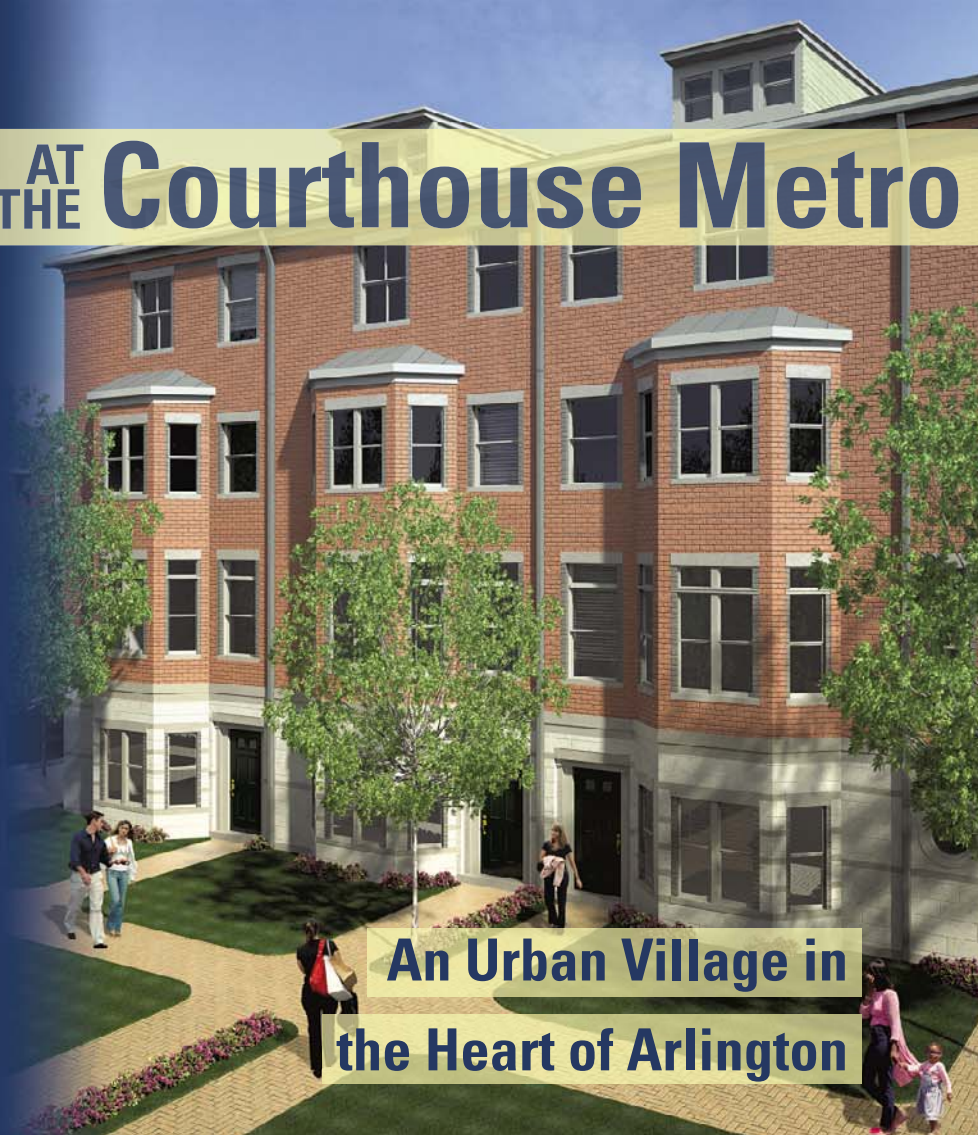
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World



OOPS: A slip of the tongue by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown led to some particularly loud heckling in Parliament Wednesday. Commenting on the global credit crunch, Brown said, "We not only saved the world" — before correcting himself and saying, "saved the banks."

In Brief



Patients receive treatment for cholera in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Wednesday.

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

U.N.: Death Toll From Cholera Outbreak Rises Sharply

The death toll from Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak has risen sharply, the United Nations said Wednesday, reporting 775 deaths and 16,141 cases of the waterborne disease in the southern African nation. The latest figures from the World Health Organization show a jump of nearly 200 deaths from Tuesday, when the U.N. humanitarian office reported that 589 people had died out of 13,960 cases. (AP)

TORONTO

Ex-Harvard Scholar Becomes New Leader of Liberal Party

The new leader of Canada's Liberal Party said Wednesday he will topple



Ignatieff

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government next month if it does not present a budget that addresses Canada's economic crisis. Michael

Ignatieff, a former Harvard University professor, made the remark after being named interim leader for the main opposition party. (AP)

U.S. Forces Kill 6 Afghans

Military: Americans mistook policemen for militants during raid

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | U.S. Special Forces killed six Afghan police and wounded 13 Wednesday in a case of mistaken identity by both sides after the police fired on the Americans during an operation against an insurgent commander.

A U.S. military statement said police fired on the American forces after the troops battled and killed an armed militant in the city of Qalat, the capital of the southern province

of Zabul. The Americans returned fire on the police, but only later learned their identities. An Afghan civilian was also killed.

"Coalition forces deeply regret the incident of mistaken fire," said Col. Jerry O'Hara, a U.S. military spokesman. "Initial reports indicate this was a tragic case of mistaken identity on both parts."

Gulab Shah Alikhail, the province's deputy governor, said U.S. Special Forces carried out an operation in a village near a police checkpoint on the outskirts of Qalat. The police, thinking it was a Taliban attack, opened fire, he said. Then a

helicopter fired on the security post and destroyed it, he said.

The attack collapsed the police station roof and damaged a nearby home, said Gilani Khan, the deputy provincial police chief.

"Unfortunately, the Special Forces didn't inform the police that they were going to the village," Alikhail said.

The U.S. said the target of Wednesday's raid was a militant commander "known to coordinate attacks against coalition forces" along Afghanistan's main highway. The statement did not say whether the commander was killed. JASON STRAZIUSO (AP)



Rioters stand in front of a burning barricade in Athens, Greece, Wednesday.

Greece Defends Its Actions

Police, government say they tried to avoid bloodshed during riots

ATHENS, GREECE | Five days of rioting that saw bands of youths marauding through the streets has shocked a generally tolerant Greek public and led many to question how the situation was allowed to degenerate. The police and government are now under intense scrutiny, despite saying they went out of their way to avoid bloodshed.

The government, which also faced a crippling general strike on Wednesday, insists it has acted in the public's best interests, safeguarding lives over property amid an unprecedented explosion of rage sparked by the shooting death by police of a 15-year-old in one of Athens' often volatile neighborhoods.

The two officers involved in the shooting were quickly arrested, charged and ordered jailed.

The government sought to show it was trying to act with restraint when it came to dealing with the protesters.

"Human life is top priority. Property comes next," Interior Minister Prokypis Pavlopoulos said during the worst of the rioting Monday, as masked youths overturned cars, erected blazing barricades across city streets and smashed stores at will. ELENA BECATOROS (AP)

SWITZERLAND | WADDLE ON



JUST OUT FOR A STROLL: Visitors watch as king penguins take a walk at the zoo in Basel, Switzerland, on Wednesday.

Italy Nabs 70 in Fake Diploma Scam

ROME | Italian police say they have arrested 70 nurses and hospital attendants who allegedly got jobs in hospitals by using fake diplomas.

Police in Naples say the suspects, some of whom had been practicing since 1975, bought the fake diplomas from an organized crime group for up to \$19,000. The suspects, who

worked in Italy's southern Calabria region, were placed under house arrest Wednesday.

The criminal organization provided brief training in basic skills such as giving injections.

The investigation was launched after a doctor raised concerns about incompetent nurses. (AP)

HEARSAY | CONFLICTS



"The international community and those in power are sitting there, letting [Israelis and Palestinians] destroy each other."

—MARTTI AHTISAARI, FORMER FINNISH PRESIDENT AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT, IN OSLO, NORWAY, WEDNESDAY. HE URGED PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA TO PUSH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDEAST.



THAT'S A MOUTHFUL: The word "gammelfleischparty," or "spoiled meat party" — an unflattering term for a gathering of people over 30 — was chosen as Germany's "youth word" of 2008, the publishers of Langenscheidt dictionaries said Wednesday. "Gammelfleisch" was in the news this year when meat packers sold restaurants expired products.

World

Island Gives Up Feudalism

Sark, a British crown dependency, holds 1st democratic elections

LONDON | The people of Sark, a quirky little bastion of feudalism in the English Channel, cast ballots Wednesday to choose their first democratically elected legislature.

Seats in the Chief Pleas, the legislature founded in 1579, have been held by the owners of the 40 perpetual leases granted by the seigneur, or hereditary owner, of the island. Since 1922, 12 other members have been elected.

Sark and the other Channel Islands have belonged to the British crown since the time of William the Conqueror. The island's feudal structure dates from the first Queen



→ Extremely tiny territory:

Sark, described as a "small, sweet world of wave-encompassed wonder" by the Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburne, is 3 miles wide. Visitors arrive by boat, often from the island of Guernsey.

Elizabeth, who granted a fief to a Channel Islander, Helier de Carteret, as a reward for reviving farming and settlements on the island following the Black Death in the 16th century.

As Crown Dependencies, the islands are self-governing, but Britain looks after defense and foreign

relations; Queen Elizabeth II is their head of state, and the seigneur of Sark each year pays her one-20th of a knight's fee, now about \$2.55. The seigneur has the sole right to keep pigeons and unspayed female dogs on the island.

The holders of the 40 perpetual leases are still legally obliged to keep muskets to defend Sark.

Fifty-six candidates ran for 28 seats in the Chief Pleas, said Sue Daly, who is serving as press officer for the island; 474 people were eligible to vote at the island's lone polling station, the snooker room of the Island Hall.

The pace of change on Sark has been forced by the wealthy Barclay brothers — Sir David and Sir Frederick — who established a castle home on Brecqhou, an 87-acre islet just 80 yards west of Sark. ROBERT BARR (AP)

BEIJING | IMPASSIONED PROTEST



PLEA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: A protester cries while asking for justice and human rights during a demonstration in Beijing on Wednesday. Two-dozen people in Beijing protested alleged government abuses on the 60th anniversary of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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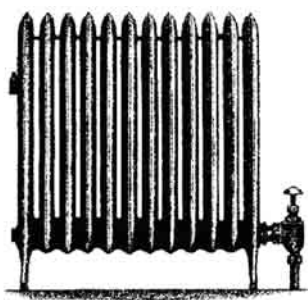
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World

24.3

The price, in millions of dollars, that a blue 35.56-carat diamond handed down through generations of German royalty was sold for at auction Wednesday in London.



Craig Ewert, 59, committed assisted suicide in 2006 in Switzerland. His death was filmed for the documentary "Right to Die?"

'Right to Die?' Riles British

Documentary showing American's assisted suicide sparks outcry

LONDON | Britain's obsession with reality television reached new heights — or depths — Wednesday night with the broadcast of the assisted suicide of a terminally ill American at a Swiss clinic.

The man is shown with his wife at his bedside while he takes a number of barbiturates and turns off his ventilator. He then dies on camera. It is a draining experience, even for viewers hardened by a hundred head-banging Hollywood films.

Before he died, Craig Ewert said his decision to take his own

life would mean less suffering for himself and his family.

"If I go through with it, I die as I must at some point," he said. "If I don't go through with it, my choice is essentially to suffer, and to inflict suffering on my family, and then die."

Photos of the man's last moments dominated the front pages of newspapers on Wednesday. "SUICIDE TV," screamed one tabloid.

The moment of death had long been a taboo for British TV, where sex and violence are common, but that line was breached by "Right to Die?," the documentary about Ewert's decision to end his life in 2006 after being diagnosed with degenerative motor neuron disease.

“When death is hidden and private, people don't face their fears about it.”

MARY EWERT, WIFE OF MAN WHO COMMITTED ASSISTED SUICIDE

His wife, Mary Ewert, wrote in the British press Wednesday that her 59-year-old husband had wanted his final moments televised.

"He was keen to have it shown because when death is hidden and private, people don't face their fears about it," she said. GREGORY KATZ (AP)

Britain to Pull Most Troops From Iraq

Decision to withdraw soldiers comes as U.S. considers a drawdown

BAGHDAD | Britain announced Wednesday it will withdraw all but a handful of its 4,000 soldiers from Iraq next year, ending a mission that was unpopular at home and failed to curb the rise of Iranian-backed Shiite militias in the south.

The decision comes as the United States is weighing a drawdown



A British soldier stands guard after a bombing in Basra, Iraq, in January 2007.

in its nearly 150,000-strong force. President-elect Barack Obama has called for withdrawing all combat

troops from Iraq by the spring of 2010, shifting responsibility to the Iraqis for the defense of the country against Sunni and Shiite extremists.

The British announcement, which was expected, signals a conclusion to the role of the second biggest troop contributor to the multinational coalition after the United States. More than 45,000 British troops took part in the March 2003 invasion that overthrew Saddam Hussein. ROBERT H. REID (AP)



OH, CRAP: Metro will set up 146 portable restrooms near certain stations for the inauguration, WTOP says. All public Metro restrooms will be closed due to security that day. If Metro carries a million people Jan. 20, that means one bathroom for every 6,849 customers.

Local

In Brief

WASHINGTON

D.C. Mayor Doles Out \$51M For Health Care Programs

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Department of Health Director (DOH) Pierre N.D. Vigilance doled out \$51 million to bolster primary and emergency care in the District Wednesday. The grants were issued based on the Rand report, issued in June, and is based on money from the city's tobacco settlement. "With this announcement, we begin the targeted investment of millions of dollars to ensure that all residents of the District have adequate access to quality health care services," Fenty said. **MARCIA DAVIS** (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Fenty

and is based on money from the city's tobacco settlement. "With this announcement, we begin the targeted investment of millions of dollars to ensure that all residents of the District have adequate access to quality health care services," Fenty said. **MARCIA DAVIS** (THE WASHINGTON POST)

WASHINGTON

Ex-School Worker Sentenced To 6 Months for ID Fraud

A former D.C. public schools employee and a friend were sentenced Wednesday to six months in federal prison for stealing the identities of 65 job applicants and co-workers and purchasing at least \$40,000 in goods in their names. Rashelle L. Henderson, 22, of District Heights, who worked as a program support specialist for D.C. schools, and her friend Tashana Crews, 25, of Southeast Washington, pleaded guilty in June in U.S. District Court to conspiring to commit identity theft. **DEL QUENTIN WILBER** (THE WASHINGTON POST)

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

4 Fairfax Men Plead Guilty In Heroin Distribution Ring

Four Fairfax County men have pleaded guilty to distributing heroin as part of a ring in the Centreville area. Nineteen-year-olds Joshua Quick and Daniel Nash pleaded guilty Tuesday to distributing heroin that resulted in the March death of Alicia Lannes, also age 19. Two others, 19-year-old Lokesh Rawat and 20-year-old David Schreider, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 100 grams of heroin. (AP)

Va. Police Shoot, Kill Theft Suspect

Officials: Man thought to have robbed bank wouldn't drop his gun

A man suspected of robbing a bank in McLean Wednesday morning was fatally shot by three Fairfax County police officers minutes later after he refused commands to drop his gun, Fairfax police said.

The dead man's identity has not been released. He was shot behind Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington County, which was locked

down for more than an hour while police tried to determine whether anyone else was involved. Police now believe the dead man was the only suspect.

The series of events began at the BB&T Bank branch at 6620 Old Dominion Drive, in the Chesterbrook Shopping Center, at about 11:20 a.m. Police said a man walked into the bank, brandished a gun and demanded cash.

After getting some money, he left the bank and drove down Old Dominion Drive toward Arlington,



Police investigate the scene near Williamsburg Middle School Wednesday.

Officer Don Gotthardt said.

But before he could reach Arlington, the man's gold Honda sedan skidded off the wet road and into a ditch, Gotthardt said. The man then ran away, into the Williamsburg neighborhood in Arlington.

The officers — with three, nine and 22 years' experience, Gotthardt said — saw the man holding a weapon. Gotthardt could not immediately verify whether he pointed it at the officers.

TOM JACKMAN AND CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT (THE WASHINGTON POST)

WASHINGTON | SENIORS GATHER FOR MAYOR'S CELEBRATION



HOLIDAY GROOVE: Willie Mae Cobb, 64, dances to tunes by the D.C. Pan Jammers at the Mayor's Annual Senior Holiday Celebration at the D.C. Armory Wednesday. Between 4,000 and 5,000 senior citizens participated in the event.

Alum Left \$75M for Georgetown

Former regent's estate bequeaths largest-ever donation to the school

The estate of a New York mortician whose family was one of IBM's earliest investors has bequeathed \$75 million to Georgetown University, the school's largest-ever philanthropic gift.

School officials announced Wednesday morning that the estate of Robert L. McDevitt, a 1940 Georgetown graduate and former Georgetown regent who died in September, directed that a portion of the gift should endow faculty positions, with specialties in religion, Catholicism, science, and technology, according to the university's statement.

The McDevitt money will also pay for faculty compensation and research, technology and other staffing "necessary to create and support academic work of national and international distinction," the statement read.

The McDevitt gift could not arrive at a more opportune time: The economic crisis has hurt non-profit entities and their ability to obtain money from belt-tightening donors or philanthropists.

IAN SHAPIRA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 10

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers **2-1-7**
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.) **4-3-9**
Mid-day DC 4 **9-2-3-1**
Evening DC 4 (Tues.) **7-0-4-4**
Rolling Cash Five (Tues.) **1-10-14-28-30**
Daily 6 (Tues.) **14-23-24-25-30-31 Bonus: 8**

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3 **0-3-1**
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) **2-0-4**
Mid-day Pick 4 **1-2-2-8**
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) **2-2-9-8**
Match 5 (Tues.) **2-10-13-19-21 Bonus: 31**

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.) **3-6-0**
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.) **9-9-0**
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.) **0-8-8-6**

Evening Pick 4 (Tues.) **8-3-5-4**
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.) **9-16-21-26-32**
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.) **3-7-15-16-19**

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Mega Ball **27**

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Money



TANGLED WEB: For sale: one Senate seat. Seller's feedback rating: since Tuesday, just about zero. Outraged by the corruption charges against Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, more than a dozen people have mockingly put the state's vacant Senate seat up for bid on eBay.

Gamble Put Ford in the Driver's Seat

Because of risky loan, automaker doesn't need government help

DEARBORN, MICH. | A decision Ford Motor Co. CEO Alan Mulally made during his first months on the job may turn out to be the automaker's saving grace.

In 2006, the chief executive fresh from Boeing Co. wanted to concentrate on making smaller, more fuel-efficient cars, matching production with consumer demand, and focusing on the Ford, Lincoln and Mercury brands.

The company has announced the closure of 17 factories and eliminated 50,000 jobs since its latest restructuring started in 2005, many through buyout and early retirement offers. It sold non-Ford brands Jaguar, Land Rover and Aston Martin. Smaller cars produced by its European unit are coming to the U.S. starting in 2010.

But to fulfill that vision for the company, Mulally needed at least



By shunning government loans, Ford's top executives say they hope to buff up the automaker's image and set it apart from its cash-starved competitors in Detroit.

\$17 billion. He took his plan — one very similar to the one Ford submitted to Congress last week — to 40 banks at a time when credit flowed freely, and he ended up raising \$23.5 billion. He bet all of Ford's buildings, stock, intellectual property, stakes in foreign automakers, and even its

trademark blue logo as collateral.

"At the time, people were wondering if we were being too aggressive to leverage assets," Mulally said.

The move to secure credit proved to be key to Ford's assertion that it doesn't need an emergency loan

like General Motors and Chrysler. While the company boasts how its fleet and future vehicles set it apart from its Detroit competitors, its ability to maintain operations without government aid is a key differentiator.



Mulally

The company had \$18.9 billion in cash on hand on Sept. 30 and still had about \$12.3 billion of its credit lines left.

Yet Ford could be standing on a melting iceberg. The company spent \$7.7 billion more than it took in in the third quarter as U.S. auto sales fell, reaching an annualized sales rate of 10 million in November, the lowest level since October 1982.

Should U.S. auto sales drop to new lows in 2009, Ford says it would need to come to the government for help. In the plan it submitted to Congress last week, it asked for access to a \$9 billion line of credit — just in case. KIMBERLY S. JOHNSON

In Brief

CHICAGO

Office Depot to Cut Jobs, Close Stores Nationwide

Office Depot Inc. will close about 9 percent of its North American stores and cut 2,200 jobs over the next three months while planning to open fewer locations next year in an effort to cut costs. The plan to shutter 112 stores will reduce the chain's base of operations to 1,163 locations. It plans to close 45 stores in the central United States, 40 in the Northeast and Canada, 19 in the West and eight in the South. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA

National Public Radio Plans First Job Cuts in 12 Years

National Public Radio said Wednesday that it's laying off 7 percent of its staff, its first job cuts in 12 years, to offset sharp declines in funding. NPR said the layoffs affect 64 full-time staff, half of which comes from news and programming. Twenty-two of the job cuts will come from the cancellation of "Day to Day" and "News and Notes." (AP)

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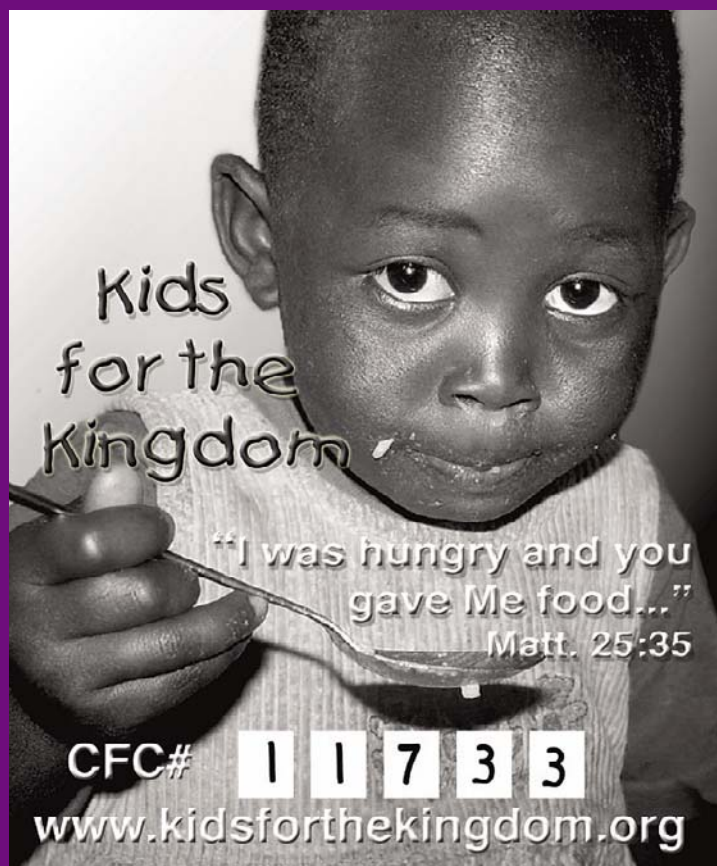
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PAIN IN THE NECK: Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones is out for this week's game against the New York Giants and might miss the rest of the season after injuring his neck against Pittsburgh, Dallas coach Wade Phillips said Wednesday.

Sports

In Brief

ARENA FOOTBALL

AFL Poised to Call off 2009 Season Due to Bad Economy

The owner of the Arena Football League's Los Angeles franchise says the league is poised to call off the 2009 season. Avengers owner Casey Wasserman tells the Los Angeles Times that the AFL needs to take the time to become more efficient because of the poor economy. Wasserman is a former league chairman and one of the AFL's major power brokers. Avengers spokesman John Tamanaha confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the team expects the 2009 season to be canceled. (AP)



United's Carlos Tevez, right, scored first in a 2-2 draw against Aalborg FC.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

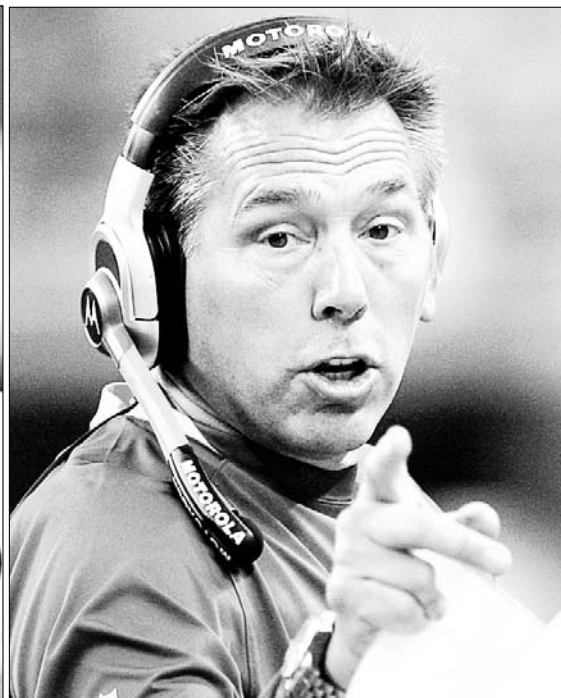
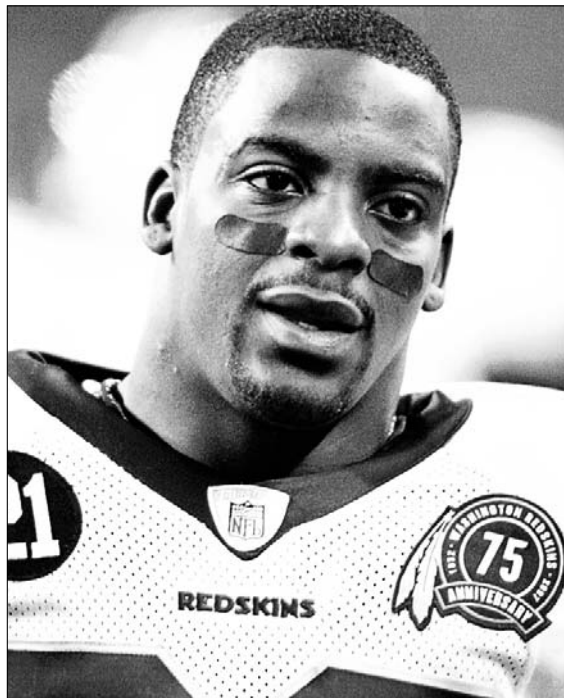
Man. United Wins Group E, Advances With 1-1 Draw

Defending champion Manchester United, Bayern Munich, FC Porto and Juventus finished at the top of their Champions League groups Wednesday, making them seeded teams for the knockout round ahead of next week's draw. Man. United drew with Aalborg 2-2 in Group E, Bayern beat Lyon 3-2 in Group F, Porto defeated Arsenal 2-0 in Group G, and Juventus was held to a 0-0 draw by BATE Borisov in Group H. (AP)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Florida Coordinator Picked As New Miss. State Coach

Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen will be the new football coach at Mississippi State, a person close to the program told The Associated Press. The source, who asked not be identified because he was not authorized to talk about the hire, said Wednesday that Mullen was expected to arrive in Starkville Wednesday and will likely be introduced on Thursday. (AP)



The infighting appears to be over between Clinton Portis and Jim Zorn after the two met before practice on Wednesday.

Portis, Zorn Clear the Air

Running back, coach call a truce following mid-week controversy

REDSKINS | The rookie head coach and the flamboyant running back reached a smiling truce Wednesday, with Clinton Portis announcing that he's "cool with everything" and that he has no plans to sever ties with the Washington Redskins.

Portis and coach Jim Zorn held a 10-minute meeting early in the day to discuss Portis' blistering comments made during a radio interview Tuesday. After practice, the two strong personalities took turns explaining what happened — with the caveat that, as Portis put it, "We both got egos."

"It was something on my chest that I needed to get off," Portis said. "I had some stuff built up. I was

itching to air it out. After we talked, we're on the same page."

Miffed over his lack of playing time in last week's 24-10 loss to the Baltimore Ravens, Portis used his radio airtime on WTEM-AM to accuse Zorn of sending mixed messages. He also sarcastically called Zorn a "genius," spoke of the possibility of severing ties with the organization.

The searing words threatened

to become Zorn's first major locker-room crisis heading into Sunday's must-win game against the Bengals. It doesn't help the coach's case that the Redskins (7-6) have lost four of five to fall to last place in the NFC East, or that Portis — Washington's second all-time leading rusher — is a favorite of owner Dan Snyder.

"I think it was just the aggravation of losing. ... Everybody wants to win."

CLINTON PORTIS, REDSKINS RB

"It's all about losing," Zorn said. "Winning doesn't bring all of this out. Losing does."

The issue boiled down to communication. Zorn felt Portis should have approached the coaching staff before going public with his grievances. Portis implied the whole issue would have been avoided if Zorn had spoken to him Monday.

Regardless, they both appeared ready to put their tiff aside.

"We're not going to sever ties," Portis said. "I'm a Washington Redskin. I love Mr. Snyder. Mr. Snyder loves me, that's my man. He kept me around. Coach has got an appreciation for me. I think it was just the aggravation of losing four games. Everybody wants to win."

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Yankees Lure Sabathia With \$161M

New York team lands top free agent to help open its new stadium

BASEBALL | The New York Yankees landed a big prize for their new ballpark.

CC Sabathia and the Yankees agreed Wednesday to the framework of a \$161 million, seven-year contract after general manager Brian Cashman dashed off to California to meet with the pitcher and his wife.

Hours after the New York Mets reached a preliminary deal on a \$37 million, three-year contract with closer Francisco Rodriguez,



CC Sabathia considered the offer for several weeks, but eventually opted to take N.Y.'s money. The Yankees eyed a major signing to help open their new stadium.

Cashman left Las Vegas and traveled to the San Francisco area Tuesday to meet with Sabathia for the third straight day.

The Yankees wound up with the top name in the free-agent market and hope he'll be a perfect fit when they move into their new \$1.3 billion stadium in the spring.

Sabathia has the right to opt out after three seasons and become a free agent again. "I'm sure every team in baseball would love to have him. He's a guy who's an intimidating factor on the mound," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said at the winter meetings.

The Yankees and Sabathia's agents still need to work out all the details, a baseball official familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Wednesday. (AP)

Brain Imaging in Depression

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is conducting studies using Positron Emission Tomography (PET) & Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to better understand how the brain regulates emotion and how depression affects motivation. Studies are conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD.

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Sports



Florida's Tim Tebow, left, with the 2007 Heisman Trophy and coach Urban Meyer, is going for his second against Oklahoma's Sam Bradford and Texas' Colt McCoy.

Tebow, Big 12 QBs Heisman Finalists

Florida junior goes for second straight award with Bradford, McCoy

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Tim Tebow will go for two against a pair of talented quarterbacks from the Big 12 when the Heisman Trophy is handed out Saturday night.

Sam Bradford from Oklahoma and Colt McCoy from Texas joined Tebow as Heisman finalists announced Wednesday.

The last time all the Heisman finalists were quarterbacks was in 2001, when Nebraska's Eric Crouch won the award and quarterbacks held the first six spots.

Tebow, the rugged and multitented junior from Florida, was the first sophomore to win the Heisman last year and is trying to become the second player to win it twice.

Archie Griffin won the Heisman as a junior in 1974 for Ohio State and again in 1975.

Tebow's Gators will play Bradford and the Sooners in the BCS national championship game Jan. 8 in Miami.

Bradford has directed the highest scoring team in major college football history, leading the nation in passer rating (186.3) and TD passes (48) while throwing for 4,464 yards.

McCoy set a major college record with his 77.6 completion percentage, breaking the mark set by Duane Culpepper for Central Florida, and is the Longhorns' leading rusher with 576 yards and 10 touchdowns. Texas finished 11-1, with a victory against Oklahoma.

Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell was surprisingly not invited to the ceremony. RALPH D. RUSSO (AP)

Syracuse's Devendorf Suspended

COLLEGE BASKETBALL | A Syracuse University judicial hearing board has ruled that starting guard Eric Devendorf violated the Student Code of Conduct after allegedly hitting a female student in the face.

The board recommended that Devendorf, a 6-foot-4 junior, be suspended for the remainder of the academic year. He is expected

to appeal the decision.

Richard Kesnig, a lawyer who represents the female student, said the university faxed him the decision late Wednesday afternoon.

Devendorf, 21, is the third-leading scorer for the No. 13 Orange, averaging 14.1 points and 3.1 assists. He missed most of last season with a torn knee ligament. (AP)

1.25

The number, in millions, of people who bought last weekend's Oscar De La Hoya-Manny Pacquiao boxing match on pay-per-view. It was only the fourth non-heavyweight fight to top 1 million pay-per-view purchases.

Sports

Lawmaker Takes Aim At the BCS

Texas congressman calls for playoff system in proposed legislation

WASHINGTON | Taking aim at a BCS system he said "consistently misfires," a member of Congress planned to introduce legislation Wednesday that would force college football to adopt a playoff to determine the national champion.

Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, the ranking Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, didn't specify what sort of playoff he wants — only that the BCS should go. "In some years, the sport's national championship winner was left unsettled, and at least one school was left out of the many millions of dollars in revenue that accompany the title," Barton said in a statement. "Despite repeated efforts to improve the system, the controversy rages on."

The BCS was created in 1998 by the six most powerful conferences. Since then, the system has been tweaked to make it easier for teams from smaller conferences to qualify for the top games. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

WIZARDS (8 P.M. ON TNT) The NBA world champion Boston Celtics visit the Washington Wizards.

MASON HOOPS (7 P.M. ON MASN) George Mason looks for its second consecutive win when hosting Radford.

MORE NBA (10:30 P.M. ON TNT) The Utah Jazz host the Portland Trail Blazers.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (8 P.M. ON ESPN2) No. 15 Villanova plays Saint Joseph's in a Big Five matchup in Philadelphia.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (7:30 P.M. ON ESPN) The Home Depot ESPNU awards will reward the best in college football.

NFL (8:15 ON NFL NETWORK) The Chicago Bears take on the New Orleans Saints.

BOXING (8 P.M. ON VERSUS) IBF cruiserweight champion Steve Cunningham defends his title against Tomasz Adamek.

Wizards Acquire 2 Guards in Trade

Washington sends Daniels to Hornets as part of 3-team deal

WIZARDS | The New Orleans Hornets sent veteran guard Mike James to Washington on Wednesday in exchange for Antonio Daniels as part of a three-team trade that returned a future first-round draft pick from the Wizards to the Memphis Grizzlies. Memphis also dealt second-year guard Javaris Crittenton to Washington and sent a con-

ditional second-round pick to New Orleans, while the Wizards waived guard Dee Brown.

Daniels has averaged 5.1 points and 3.6 assists in 13 games with the Wizards. The 6-foot-4 guard was a fourth overall pick by the then-Vancouver Grizzlies in 1997 and was a member of the San Antonio Spurs' 1998-99 championship team.

Daniels "has always been a steady, proven guard in this league," Hornets coach Byron Scott said. "He has won at the highest level and is a clutch player. He also gives



The Wizards landed Javaris Crittenton in a three-team trade on Wednesday.

us a different look in the backcourt with his size."

Crittenton has appeared in seven games as a reserve for the Grizzlies, averaging 2.7 points.

"This trade strengthens and energizes our backcourt by giving us a veteran guard in Mike James, who can help us immediately with his stability and scoring ability, and a young guard in Javaris Crittenton, who can help us now and in the future with his athleticism," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld.

BRETT MARTEL (AP)



Since taking over as coach, Ed Tapscott has led the Wizards to a 3-5 record. Washington hosts Boston on Thursday night.

Tapscott Ushers in Youth Movement

New Wizards coach seeks consistency with rotation of 8 players

WIZARDS | Different Eddie, different style.

When Ed Tapscott took over as head coach on Nov. 24, he laid out several short-term goals. One of his most pressing desires was to increase team chemistry by finding the right rotation.

Under former coach Eddie Jordan,

the Wizards' veterans knew they'd usually have a place on the floor, while some of the younger bench players were often left wondering whether they'd get 18 minutes a night or just a cameo spelling a starter.

Those days appear to be gone.

When the Wizards take the floor now, the opposition can expect to see a healthier dose of Andray Blatche and nearly a quarter's worth of action from Dominic McGuire. They'll be seeing a lot less of Etan Thomas.

And the results are about as good

as could be expected. The Wizards are 3-5 with Tapscott at the helm heading into Thursday's matchup with the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Celtics (20-2).

Boston has won its past 12 games, but the Wizards took three of four from the Celtics during Boston's title season last year.

"I really think a rotation of about nine guys ... is the best way

to develop cohesion and chemistry," Tapscott said.

Tapscott wants a core of eight players who can be relied on to carry the bulk of the minutes each night. Then he will pluck from the remaining bench players for his rotation each game to create favorable matchups or to try to neutralize other

Tapscott's message is clear: As long as you are playing hard, you're going to get minutes.

teams' strengths. For instance, the only two games Thomas has logged double-digit minutes under Tapscott were against Orlando and the Los Angeles Lakers, both teams with dominant post players.

The system has appeared to benefit Blatche most. The fourth-year player has averaged 12.8 points while shooting 57.5 percent from the floor in the last four games, and no longer has to worry about Jordan pulling him quickly. Tapscott's message is clear: As long as you are playing hard, you're going to get minutes.

"We've just got to bring the same effort and energy [consistently]," forward Antawn Jamison said. "Even if shots aren't falling, the energy must still be there." ERIC BRANDNER



Late game: The Washington Capitals' game against the Boston Bruins at Verizon Center ended after deadline. For a full recap | washingtonpost.com/sports

Entertainment



INVEST IN EARPLUGS: Betty Thomas has signed on to direct "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel," the follow-up to the 2007 hit featuring the lovable singing rodents. Prepare to meet the Chipmunks' female counterparts, the Chipettes.

New Course of Action

ABC's 'Wipeout' gets a new look to ensure the funniest falling

CRASH | The "Wipeout" set looks like the world's largest playground.

Candy-colored ramps, rope swings, slides and bouncy big balls. You know the course is treacherous, specifically designed to make runners face-plant, and that most parents wouldn't let their kids anywhere near it. Yet from a distance, your inner adolescent wants to run straight down the launch ramp.

ABC's "Wipeout" is shot on a sprawling ranch in Santa Clarita, Calif. The crew is readying 16 hours for a second season in the summer with a new array of obstacles to trip up contestants.

"We changed 95 percent of the course, but we kept the Big Balls," said executive producer Matt Kunitz, referring to the show's signature inflated obstacle. "We want it to be like 'The Price Is Right,' where we're constantly changing the course but sometimes bringing back favorites with new twists."

The secret to the show's comedy, Kunitz said, is to avoid having contestants fall straight down.

"The Big Balls — we never knew they were going to be great," he said. "With them, you get an uncontrollable fall. If somebody falls straight into the water, it's not interesting. If somebody falls and ricochets off something, it's funny."



PIECE DE RESISTANCE: Everything but the Big Balls can go. "With [the balls], you get an uncontrollable fall," says "Wipeout" executive producer Matt Kunitz.

This past summer, it was reality shows that were falling uncontrollably, though broadcasters didn't find much amusing about it. "Wipeout" was the only new title to break out. Nowadays, such a success usually means that the show immediately would be drafted into service filling a slot in-season. But ABC elected to save the show until the summer.

"I prefer that," Kunitz said. "We don't want to burn out. We did 39 hours of 'Fear Factor' one year. I'd rather have 16 hours and run for many years."

Another shake-up for the second season: no helmets, so viewers can better see contestants' faces. When asked whether that means increasing the danger, Kunitz said the softness of the course's surfaces prevents the sort of injuries a helmet protects against.

"We spend hundreds of thousands on foam," he said. "This is like nothing that wouldn't happen in a backyard game of touch football."

Still, insuring the contestants isn't cheap. The company pays roughly \$2,000 to insure each person who runs the course. **JAMES HIBBARD (THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER)**



Britney can shave her head, but she can't get rid of her status as a pop icon.

She Did It Again, on Purpose

Rough waters behind her, Britney Spears is back to chart-topping

SCORE | Britney Spears' latest CD, "Circus," has landed her back at a familiar position — No. 1.

The singer's comeback CD — actually, make that her second comeback CD — will top the album charts next week, according to her label, Jive. Though Nielsen SoundScan does not release its official figures until Wednesday, estimates have the record selling as many as 500,000 copies in its first week of release.

"This is going to reinforce her icon status," said Barry Weiss, chairman and CEO of the BMG Label Group, which includes Spears' label. "It's not just a No. 1 album."

Indeed, it's not. For Spears, who has rebounded after a disastrous year that included rehab, a custody battle for her two sons and court-ordered supervision by her father, it is another step in her bid to reclaim her status among pop's elite.

"At the end of the day, I think she is America's pop princess, and the world's pop princess, and this just reconfirms it to everyone who doubted it," said her manager, Larry Rudolph. **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY (AP)**



It's a little bit of the early days of Batman, a little bit of Japanese manga.

Holy Fusion, Batman!

The Caped Crusader meets Japan in the comic 'Bat-Manga!'

BOOK | Things always get more interesting when you mix heritages, traditions and sensibilities. Think fusion cuisine or world music — or, for that matter, President-elect Barack Obama.

That blending is what infuses such fascination into "Bat-Manga! The Secret History of Batman

in Japan," designer Chip Kidd's gorgeous examination of the odd collision of American comic-book superheroes and Japanese manga that took place in Japan in 1966 and 1967, the heyday of the Batman-as-high-camp period in the United States.

Kidd, a veteran of graphic Batman books, offers his usual dead-on collage sensibility. The book is also translated for the first time.

Though the drawings are reminiscent of D.C.'s Batman of the

1950s and 1960s, and certainly evoke the kitsch of Adam West's Caped Crusader at times, there is a darkness about them.

Granted, \$60 is a high price for a glorified comic book, particularly in the current economy. But as with all of Kidd's work, this is as much a cultural document as a showpiece, and its boundaries reach far beyond the worlds of comic-book fandom. Not that those worlds aren't worthwhile in themselves. **TED ANTHONY (AP)**

Entertainment

The Geek Squad

An informed public cottons to informed characters on the tube

SCIENCE | In the beginning, there was the Professor.

Although he never could figure out how to repair the S.S. Minnow, Russell Johnson's high school science teacher, stranded with the other castaways on "Gilligan's Island," was so ingenious he could recharge a battery using only bamboo and coconuts.

Now, there's Walter Bishop (John Noble), a psychiatrically challenged scientist so ingenious he can talk to the dead on Fox's "Fringe." Or Dr. Jacob Hood (Rufus Sewell), who's too busy deconstructing experiments in cloning and mind manipulation on the "Eleventh Hour" (CBS) to notice that the agent protecting him (Marley Shelton) is pretty hot.

Over on "Bones," also on Fox, it's the same situation in reverse — Dr. Temperance Brennan (Emily Deschanel) would rather be performing her miraculous autopsies on the ancient dead but reluctantly solves more modern crimes with the emotionally irrepressible Detective Booth (David Boreanaz).



"House" bridged the gap between the medical drama and the scientifically complex.

Flip through prime time on any night, and along with the requisite number of cops and docs and lawyers, you'll find an astonishing number of scientists. On CBS alone, there are the adorable physics geeks (played by Johnny Galecki and Jim Parsons) of "The Big Bang Theory" and Charles Epps (David Krumholtz), the mathematician turned detective on "Numb3rs," and the former fake psychic (Simon Baker) on "The Mentalist," who uses the power of informed observation to unravel mysteries.

As medical shows find them-

selves butting against an increasingly overinformed public, not to mention one another, writers are broadening their horizons.

Fox's "House" served as the perfect bridge — it may be a medical drama, but it celebrates the cerebellum over surgical, or curative, prowess. The titular genius (Hugh Laurie) is less concerned with saving the patient than he is with solving the problem. "Trust me," House says, giving voice to the scientific creed in episode after episode, "it's much better when you know."

MARY MCNAMARA (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Refuting Joe the Accuser

Coldplay claims it is wholly responsible for 'Viva la Vida'

LAWSUIT | Coldplay says it's just coincidence if parts of the group's new hit song "Viva La Vida" sound like "If I Could Fly," a 2004 instrumental by guitarist Joe Satriani, who has sued the band for copy-



Chris Martin has not the time nor the patience to be told he is a music thief.

right infringement.

"[With] the greatest possible respect to Joe Satriani, we have now unfortunately found it necessary to respond publicly to his allegations,"

the band said in a statement posted Tuesday on its official Web site, Coldplay.com.

"If there are any similarities between our two pieces of music, they are entirely coincidental, and just as surprising to us as to him," the statement said. "Joe Satriani is a great musician, but he did not write or have any influence on the song 'Viva La Vida.' We respectfully ask him to accept our assurances of this and wish him well with all future endeavors."

"Viva La Vida" received Grammy nominations last week for record and song of the year, and the album "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" is a contender for best album. RANDY LEWIS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



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Entertainment

The Soul Of Rock Plays On

Roy Orbison's widow
boxes a masterful
107-track collection

MUSIC | Roy Orbison recorded for more than a handful of labels during the course of 32 years, from his first releases for Sun in 1956 to a triumphal posthumous release from Virgin completed shortly before his death in 1988. The list includes Monument, for which from 1960 to 1965 he recorded the essential string of dramatic ballads and smart, primal rockers that brought him unequivocally deserved acceptance into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. It also includes a short but precious stint at Warner Bros. Records as a member of the Traveling Wilburys and passages



Finally, Roy Orbison fans have a compilation that does justice to the artist.

through labels including Elektra, MGM, RCA and Mercury.

So, it's no wonder that it has taken all this time for Orbison's music to receive its ultimate validation: the four-CD boxed set "The Soul of Rock and Roll," a 107-track labor of love put together by Barbara Orbison, the singer's savvy, flame-keeping widow, and Sony's Legacy.

"The Soul of Rock and Roll" is chronological. It begins with "Ooby

Dooby," recorded in 1956 in Odessa, Texas, by the Teen Kings, Orbison's band from his nearby West Texas hometown of Wink, which was not far from Lubbock and his friendly rival Buddy Holly. And Lubbock was not far from Norman Petty's studio in Clovis, N.M., where the Teen Kings cut a few tracks that fairly quickly nailed the attention of Sam Phillips.

Orbison and the Teen Kings recorded an only incrementally more polished version of "Ooby Dooby" produced by Phillips at Sun Studios in Memphis, Tenn., marking the beginning of Orbison's brief but productive period as a Sun Records rockabilly star. If his rockabilly career (a period amply represented on disc 1 of the box) has been underrated, it may be because he so successfully surpassed this early work with power and inventiveness.

The box ends with a live version of the resonantly tragic "It's Over," recorded Dec. 4, 1988, in Akron, Ohio, just two days before Orbison died of a heart attack at age 52 while visiting his mother near Nashville.

WAYNE ROBBINS (BILLBOARD)



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LIFE AFTER 'FRIENDS': Martha Plimpton and Kiele Sanchez are among the actors who have joined Matthew Perry on his dark comedy Showtime pilot "The End of Steve." Perry stars as Steve, a talk show host who is on a reluctant path to redemption.

Television

ON TV TONIGHT

WHAT'S IN A NAME? NOTHING.

Joy does not live up to her name on **MY NAME IS EARL** (8 p.m., NBC).

FLASHING THEIR GREEN

SECRET MILLIONAIRE (8 p.m., Fox) offers the ultra-rich a variation on eco-tourism.

THE END OF DAYS COMETH

The recurring series **PLANET IN PERIL** (9 p.m., CNN) returns to examine ways that a growing human population strains the environment in dangerous and unexpected ways.

NOT-SO-SOUR

Liz Lemon finds a holiday charity on **30 ROCK** (9:30 p.m., NBC).

HOLIDAY REUNION

Morris hears from his father on **ER** (10 p.m., NBC).

HERE COMES THE DOG

Sarah scoffs at the institution of marriage on **THE SARAH SILVERMAN PROGRAM** (10:30 p.m., Comedy Central).

I. BEER PONG. 2. DEATH

Flesh-eating bacteria put a damp-



Anderson Cooper gives us the bad news first, and last, on "Planet in Peril."

er on spring break on **ELEVENTH HOUR** (10 p.m., CBS).

ON-SCREEN SKILLS

Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman is scheduled on **THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART** (11 p.m., Comedy Central). **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

New Face on the Crime Scene

Laurence Fishburne is a fresh addition to the cast of 'CSI'

PATHOLOGIST | Laurence Fishburne joins the cast of "CSI" (9 p.m., CBS) as professor and renown criminal pathologist Dr. Raymond Langston. He gets the attention of Gil Grissom (William Petersen) and his team when he invites his class to participate in a "conversation" with the notorious "Dick & Jane" serial killer Nathan Haskell (Bill Irwin) via a two-way camera feed between the prison and the university. Grissom "audits" the class to gain insight into a current case that may be linked to Haskell's work.

Not only does this episode welcome Langston, but Grissom makes it official, telling his whole team



William Petersen, right, welcomes Laurence Fishburne to the "CSI" set.

that he's finally leaving. Grissom drops the bomb with no emotion, and his co-workers react in complete silence.

Fans of the series have known or suspected his eventual departure for what seems like years. Catherine (Marg Helgenberger) sums things up, with a line that can be taken as either comforting or merely weird. "I knew. I knew before you knew."

And who watches "CSI" for the emotional moments? In the opening moments of tonight's helping, we watch a man get strangled, stuffed in a garbage bag and dumped into a ravine. Then we're given a time-lapse peek at his body's decomposition, complete with gaseous eruptions and insect-enhanced decay. When discovered sometime later, the remains are so soggy that Grissom alerts his team with the phrase, "Soup to go!" Bon appetit. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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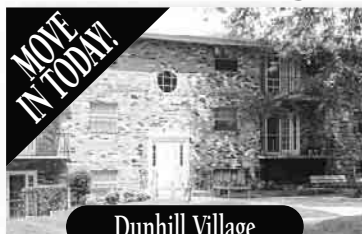
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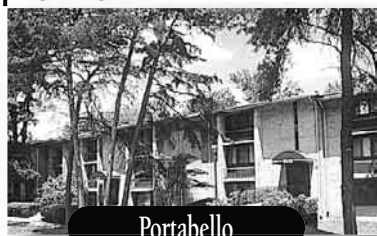
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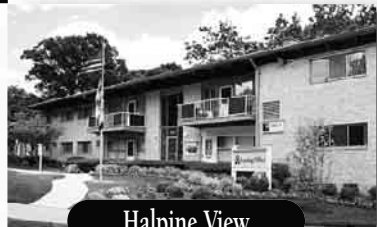
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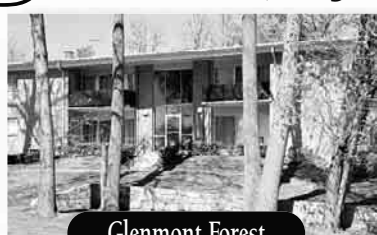
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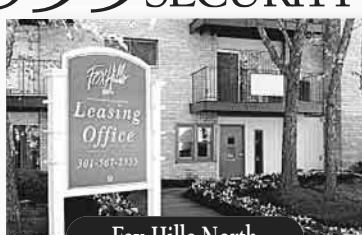
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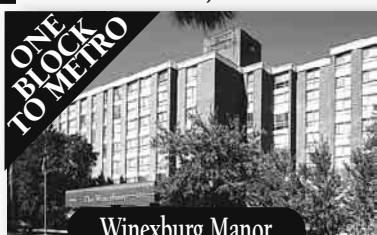
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LOOK out

*TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

Cruise deals with lost cell anxiety | 34



Discussions: Holiday etiquette advice | 32

Blog Log: Integrity in Chicago politics | 32

Homes

Fragrances can put you in the mood to celebrate the season

There probably are very few people eating chestnuts roasted on an open fire during the holiday season, but anyone who has walked — even just once — down Manhattan's Fifth Avenue at Christmastime likely has a pleasant association with that warm, nutty smell.

“What’s so nice about the scents of Christmas is that they’re natural.”

MARCIE MCGOLDRICK, MARTHA STEWART LIVING HOLIDAY & CRAFTS

You might also feel that way about a whiff of vanilla, cinnamon, pumpkin pie or gingerbread. There's also the ever-popular scent of a fresh-cut tree.

They're the smells of Christmas, filling the air. And they're an easy way to make your home feel instantly warm and holiday-ready.

“Home fragrance is decorating

every time you do it,” says home-fragrance guru Harry Slatkin. “Fragrance is key to setting the mood. You can even choose a cheap wine to serve to your guests if your home smells delicious.”

You can scent your home from scratch — get out those cookie sheets — or get help from dozens of commercial products such as candles, potpourris, sprays or plug-ins.

Use several complementary scents at the same time, Slatkin recommends.

“It’s the only way to smell the scent,” Slatkin says, “otherwise you get too used to it. It’s olfactory desensitization. Different scents awaken your nose.”

But layering can be compli-

cated, Slatkin warns, because you don’t want your nose to be jarred as you move from room to room. He recommends using vanilla as a base scent — it goes well with everything.

Orange is also easy to work with, he says. One idea is to take real oranges, poke cloves through the skin, making little scent balls that can be hung on the tree.

Slatkin also likes to roll out the

scent welcome mat, firing off three shots of room spray by the front door just as guests arrive.

Even though Slatkin sells his candles and oils at Bath & Body Works, he doesn’t discount creating aromas the old-fashioned way.

TREATS FOR THE NOSE:

Candles sold at Bath & Body Works feature Christmas-themed scents like spice and frosted cranberry.

He’s been known to boil apples on top of the stove or make gingerbread pancakes. “It’s like the smell of bacon — there’s nothing better — but this says ‘holiday,’” Slatkin says.

Scents make good gifts, says Marcie McGoldrick, editorial director for Martha Stewart Living Holiday & Crafts.

Balsam sachets, in particular, are gifts that keep on giving since

the scent is more broadly “winter” than “holiday,” she notes, although she’s also a big fan of mulling-spice sachets.

“What’s so nice about the scents of Christmas is that they’re natural scents and they’re evocative of other memories. They’re easy to give to others because people relate to them, they have those same memories, too,” McGoldrick says.

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL (AP)



FESTIVE FRAGRANCES: The scent of a freshly cut Christmas tree can evoke comforting holiday memories, aroma experts say.

Smells Like Holiday Spirit



LOOK out Online

express
nightout

>> EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

TELEVISION

Hail to the Chef

Last week on "Top Chef," royal screwup Ariane Durate somehow came through and won the Elimination Challenge, sending Alex Eusebio packing. Want to know what happened last night on the show featuring Padma Lakshmi, right? Karmah Elmusa tracks all that's cooking on her Hail to the Chef blog. | COMING UP



BAGGAGE CHECK

Involuntary Unplugging

Who says psychologists, psychiatrists and therapists don't have problems? Dr. Andrea Bonior is suffering right now from a case of the "computer blues," so she goes into self-diagnosis mode to evaluate how the loss of her Mac pretty much affects her whole life. | ONLINE NOW

CD REVIEWS

Covered Up

Memo to Cat Power: We get it. Your voice is glorious. You could sell tickets to a show at which you play a Ramones album at half-speed and croon along. Now, please, enough with the covers, writes Afton Lorraine Woodward in her review of "Dark End of the Street." | ONLINE NOW



poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

DO YOU THINK NBC MADE A SMART DECISION BY MOVING JAY LENO TO PRIME TIME?

YES 53%

NO 47%



"So ['The Tonight Show'] goes to prime time? I don't think he'll have as many viewers. At night, the options are limited, but during prime time even cable can have better options than Jay."

COMMENTER TRUPATRIOT, RESPONDING TO WEDNESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK NBC MADE A SMART DECISION BY MOVING JAY LENO TO PRIME TIME?"

"Yeah, I can watch [Leno] without taping him. I can't wait to see whether he finally has the nerve to crack jokes about Obama. Why should this president get a pass?"

COMMENTER AMUSED, WHO ADDED, "LETTERMAN MUST BE HAPPY. ... MAYBE HE WILL FINALLY MOVE UP IN THE RATINGS."

"Just another way for a studio to save money. Talk shows are normally easy and cheap to produce — no set changes, no divas, no on-location shots."

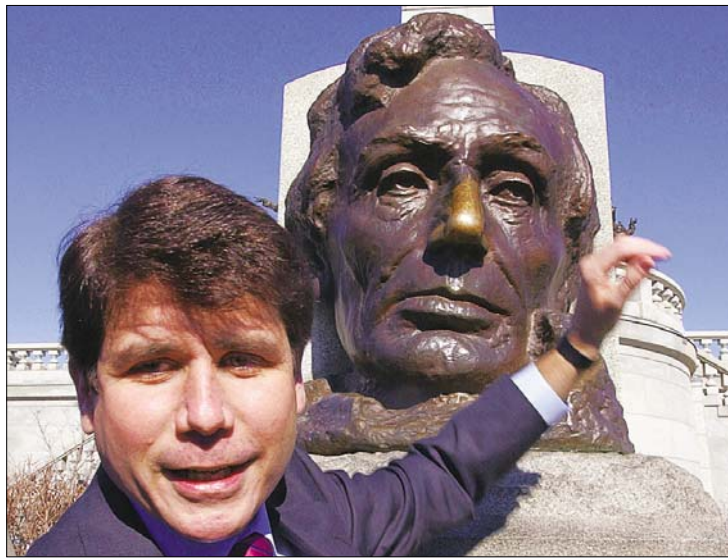
AN ANONYMOUS COMMENTER, WHO ADDED, "AND NO CAST MEMBERS WHO GET TOO FULL OF THEMSELVES."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

Blog LOG

"I realize that in post-9/11 America, you're not supposed to say anything bad about [firefighters], but I'm about to break that rule."

DCIST.COM IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH D.C. FIREFIGHTERS WHO COMPLAINED PUBLICLY THAT THE NATIONAL REGISTRY EXAM FOR EMTS WAS TOO HARD, AFTER 28 PERCENT OF THE FORCE FAILED.



SETH PERLMAN/AP

"What kind of country do we live in when we can't even put up a United States Senate seat for sale anymore?"

GABESGUIDE.COM POKES FUN AT ILLINOIS GOV. ROD BLAGOJEVICH, ADDING, "I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT IF THERE WAS ONE WORD THAT COULD SUM UP CHICAGO POLITICS, IT WOULD BE 'INTEGRITY.'"



"Come on, Metro. You made all of your icons shiny. Why can't you make a damn clickable map for buses, like, a big online version of those huge maps at certain bus stops?"

WHYIHATEDC.BLOGSPOT.COM IS SOMEWHAT PLEASED WITH WMATA'S NEW WEB SITE, ASIDE FROM ONE ISSUE, ADDING, "ARE WE JUST ASSUMING THAT NO ONE WHO OWNS A COMPUTER RIDES THE BUS?"

"I AM A REGULAR blood-giver, but I have really tiny veins. I feel my donation is a double donation. Not only do I donate blood, but my tiny veins turn into a learning experience for the technician, as [he or she] inevitably has to call her supervisor for help."

THESNOWBUNNYINTHECITY.BLOGSPOT.COM GENERALLY HAS PROBLEMS WITH VEIN RECOGNITION, EVEN WHEN HAVING BLOOD DRAWN AT A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

Discussions

Holiday Etiquette

ANNA POST, great-great-granddaughter of Emily Post and an author and spokesperson for the Emily Post Institute, was online Wednesday with etiquette advice to help you navigate the holiday season.

What is an appropriate gift/tip for the postal carrier?

USPS mail carriers can accept small gifts (such as homemade cookies or a store-bought mug) as long as the value is under \$20. They cannot accept cash gifts, checks, gift cards or any other forms of currency. A handwritten note of thanks is always a nice way to reach out to someone you may have never met in person.

What is an appropriate gift to give a hostess of a holiday party?

The options are endless, but some of the more popular items are flowers (already arranged or potted), tins of cookies, wine, wine glass charms, chocolate, cocktail napkins, scented candles, nice soaps or a breakfast item for them to enjoy the next day. Just don't be offended if your host doesn't serve or use your gift that evening. Be sure to include a note with your name, too, so the host knows who to thank if your gift gets mixed in with others.

How much should I tip my apartment building's maintenance guy? It's a smallish building (60 units), and he handles almost all of the maintenance. He'll also pick up packages for us, and I generally think very highly of him.

The norm is a wide range — any-

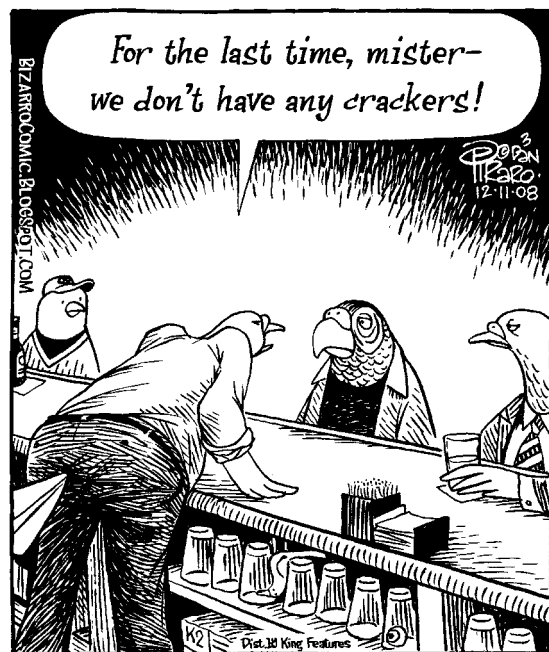
where from \$20 to \$80. You could also give a gift instead. Think about your budget when you choose your amount — there is no wrong answer as long as you feel comfortable. Give the tip (fresh, clean bills) inside a thank-you note.

Is it inappropriate to send personal (e.g., handwritten, not from my company but purchased and stamped by me) holiday cards to business associates? They are not of the "here's a picture of my family" or "holiday letter update" variety but are the same cards I send to friends.

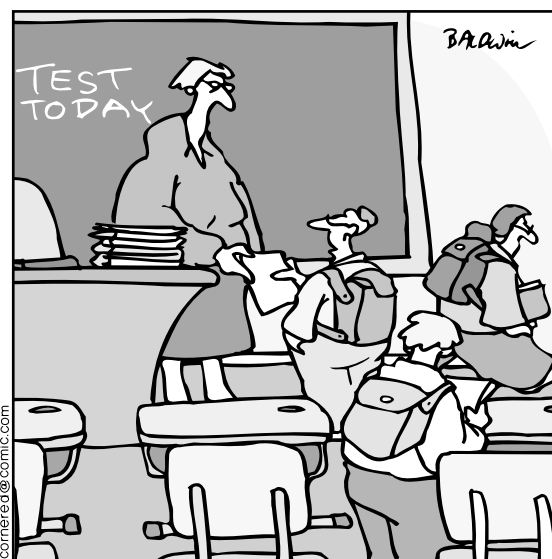
Yes, this is perfectly OK, as you recognize the need to keep it professional looking.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Addiction and mental health treatment specialist Dr. Harris Stratyner offers advice on coping during the holidays at noon. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



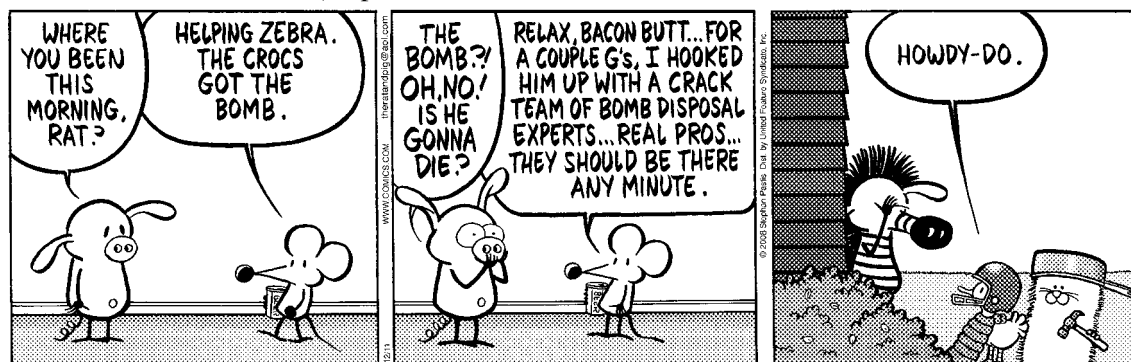
Cornered | Mike Baldwin



Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You should enjoy an inspired, invigorating day — but you must take care that you leave something left over for that special someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You'll be driven forward by your own rich and complex objectives. You needn't explain yourself to your critics — just yet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're more in the mood for small, intimate gatherings than you are for a grand social event. Private talk results in a major discovery.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) A challenge comes your way, and you can embrace it with great energy and passion. Seek a new method to achieve old ends.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't be lazy, especially when asked a favor by another Aries native. He or she may mean more to you than others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It's a good day

to unleash your creativity and to explore the more unusual options available to you at this time. Don't be timid.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's time for you to claim your rewards in an outright, honest and direct fashion. It's important that you not let others take advantage.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Make no decisions without first consulting those closest to you. What you do is sure to affect them for some time to come.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You can successfully reverse a negative trend, and those around you will be impressed with your ingenuity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your first impressions are sure to prove more important than usual — but you must keep your temper carefully under control at all times.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Give advice only when asked — or you're likely to find that few are willing to listen, no matter how valid your views may be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) There is no danger in going out of your way to please others; indeed, you can reap great rewards for your extra efforts.

Letters

Use Funds for Metro Safety

I WAS APPALLED by an article about Metro's choices for new seat cushions: "seals with balls and gray with rainbows." Late trains, elevator and escalator outages, and fiscal problems plague the system; is this how

money should be spent? Just minutes after reading this story, the escalator I was waiting to board at Gallery Place suddenly reversed at high speed, sending commuters tumbling backward into a 20-or-so person pileup at the bottom. Direct your resources to customer safety, Metro, and then you'll get my "seal" of approval.

—JED MILLARD
Arlington, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1941 Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

1983 Pope John Paul II visits a Lutheran church in Rome, the first visit by a Roman Catholic pontiff to a Protestant church in his own diocese.

1997 More than 150 countries agree at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

2003 A new second home for the National Air and Space Museum opens in Chantilly, Va., about 28 miles west of the original's home in Washington, D.C.



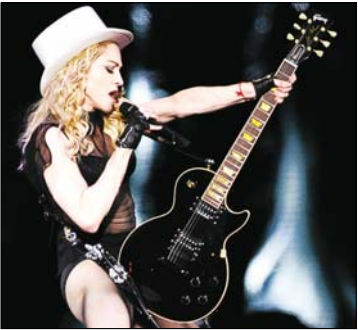
The second Air and Space Museum.

2007 The Senate Intelligence Committee takes closed-door testimony from CIA Director Michael Hayden on how videotapes of terror suspect interrogations were made and then destroyed.

LOOK

out

People



This guitar then burst into sinful flames.

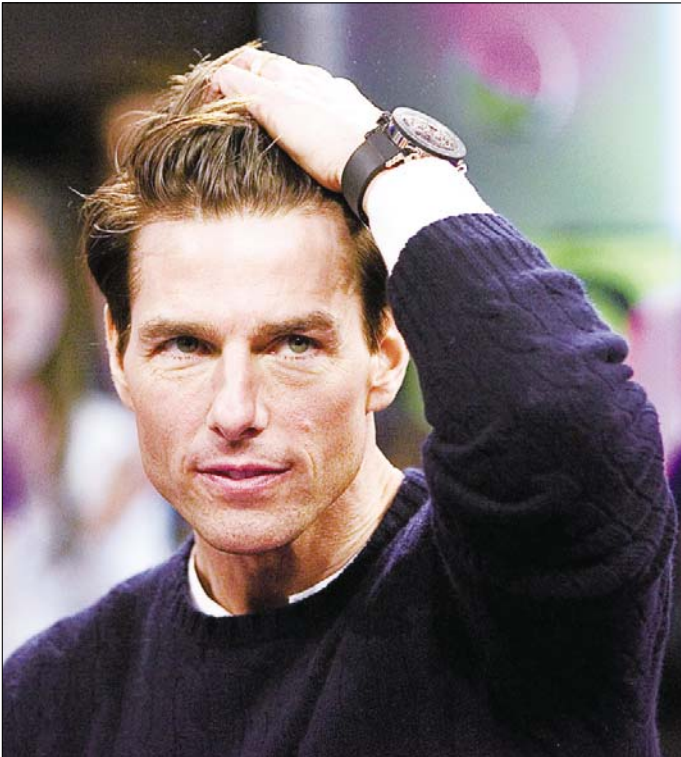
50+ Hot Flashes Ignite Chile

MADONNA is wreaking spiritual havoc on her first concert visit to Chile, said retired cardinal Jorge Medina: “This woman comes here and in an incredibly shameless manner, she provokes a crazy enthusiasm, an enthusiasm of lust, lustful thoughts, impure thoughts.” (AP)

GIFTS Phoenix Would Have Preferred Souvenir Magnet



DMX is back behind bars again in Miami after he was arrested by federal authorities for allegedly skipping out on a court appearance. He was arrested Tuesday afternoon on a warrant issued by a Phoenix judge after he wasn't in court Friday. (AP)



BORING Suri's Baby Sitter Soon to Be Famous

TOM CRUISE has reportedly lost his cell phone, Contactmusic.com reported. The actor allegedly lost the device at a junket in Canada for the film “Valkyrie.” Sources say he is anxious to find the phone before all of his personal information is leaked to the world. (EXPRESS)

IN 5008 Archaeologist Unearths Evidence Of Tacky Sacrifice

MICHAEL JACKSON's glittery glove is going on the auction block. The glove, which inspired countless copycats, quips and Halloween costumes after it was unveiled in the 1983 video for “Billie Jean,” will be part of a five-day auction next



When the bills get high, the glove will save the day.

year, said Julien's Auctions. Jackson is also unloading the grandiose gates that led to his Neverland Ranch, along with more than 2,000 other personal items. The possessions will be on display before the auction begins on April 21. (AP)

BABIES 'When They Spit Up Warm Slime, I See God'

RICKY MARTIN is showing off the first photos of his twin boys, who were born last summer to a surrogate mother. Photos of Martin and his sons, Valentino and Matteo, appear in the upcoming issue of People.



Says Martin: “I'm so happy! Everything they do, from smiling to crying, feels like a blessing. Being a father feels amazing. This has been the most spiritual moment in my life.” (AP)

PEACE U.N. Brokers Pioneering Bathroom Towel Accord

BRAD PITT and ANGELINA JOLIE don't squabble, the actor told Rolling Stone. “Angie and I do not fight anymore,” he said. “There's going to come a time when I'm not going to get to be with this person anymore. ... I don't want to waste time being angry at someone I love.” (EXPRESS)

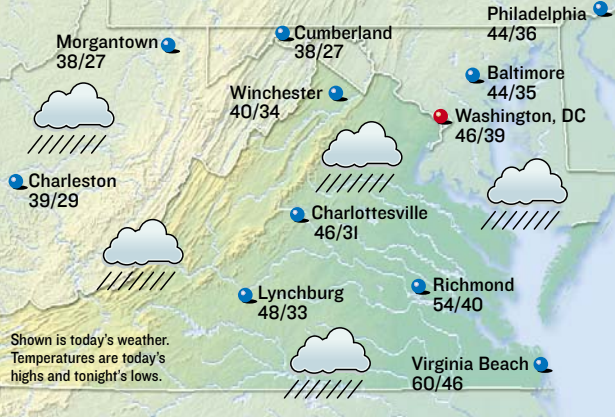


He never hangs those damn things up.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Much colder and rainy	Rain, changing to snow late	Breezy with decreasing clouds	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
46°	39°	44° / 29°	46° / 30°	49° / 38°	54° / 43°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.
Temperature
High 65°
Low 46°
Normal high 48°
Normal low 33°
Average humidity 83%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.09"
Month to date 0.13"
Normal month to date 0.99"
Year to date 43.65"
Last year to date 30.61"
Normal year to date 37.40"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtontimes.com/weather

Regional Forecast

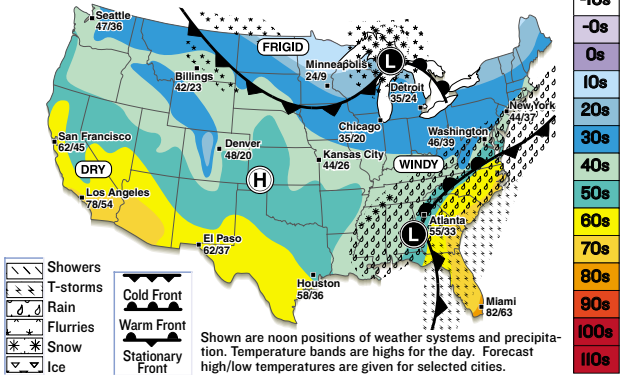
D.C. Metro: Today, cloudy, rain, colder. High 46. Wind north-northeast 7-14 mph. Tonight, cloudy, rain, then snow. Low 39. Wind north 8-16 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:17 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:46 p.m.
Moonrise today 3:34 p.m.
Moonset today 6:10 a.m.



National Weather for Thursday, December 11



National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	55/33/r	52/34/pc
Boston	39/35/r	42/25/sf
Chicago	35/20/pc	29/20/sf
Dallas	54/38/s	59/45/s
Denver	48/20/pc	44/23/c
Honolulu	80/72/r	82/71/r
Los Angeles	78/54/s	68/52/s
Miami	82/63/t	71/56/pc
New York City	44/37/r	40/28/r
Orlando	72/50/t	63/45/pc
Seattle	47/36/pc	43/37/r

World Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Amsterdam	38/28/c	39/30/s
Athens	59/56/sh	63/54/sh
Berlin	34/30/sf	37/34/r
Buenos Aires	75/64/pc	79/68/pc
Calgary	34/19/s	23/11/sf
Dublin	45/41/pc	48/41/r
Geneva	34/29/sf	30/28/sf
Moscow	32/25/c	30/25/pc
Rome	59/45/r	54/43/r
Sydney	70/63/r	72/64/r
Tokyo	64/48/pc	57/46/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK out

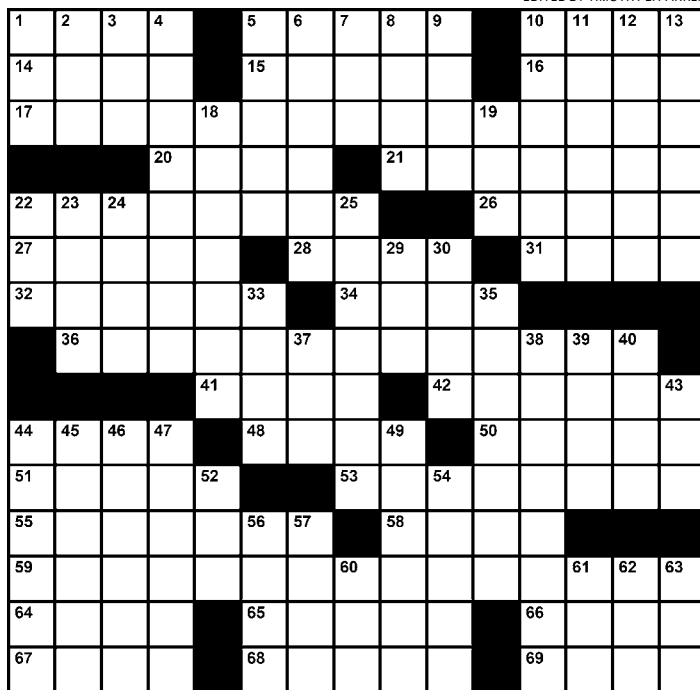
CROSSWORD | HANG 'EM HIGH

ACROSS

- 1 Added benefit
5 Bridge decline
10 Straight-arrow link
14 Side by side
15 Formal pronouncements
16 What today's bid will be tomorrow?
17 Bogdanovich film (with "The")
20 Long geological period
21 Working mom's aid
22 Like some powerful voices
26 Works for
27 "My Beautiful Laundrette" writer Kureishi
28 It may be hard to come out of
31 "Mayflower" pole
32 Italian title of respect
34 Astronomical Major or Minor
36 Choosing, in a way
41 Narrow wood strip
42 Significant effect
44 Bryn ___ College
48 Eyelid position
50 Producer, actress and host
51 Healing plants
53 Olive stuffer
55 Small underground water carrier
58 Slender gull
59 Part of a Trump book title
64 Spy and dancer

DOWN

- Mata
65 Plastic shoelace thingie
66 Shakespearean character
67 Org.
68 Preminger suspense classic
69 Like Superman's vision
1 Amigo
2 Historic age
3 Abbr. next to a telephone number
4 Olympic skater Witt
5 Ding-dong
6 Ant magnet
7 Play part, or play a part
8 It gives support in the home
9 Darlene on "Roseanne"
10 FBI sting of the late '70s
11 Largest desert
12 Bedecks
13 Latest
18 Large pheasant
19 Kind of shadow
22 Open-mouthed exclamations
23 No longer due
24 Certain Ga. Tech grad.
25 Hand over, as money
29 Miniver or Robinson
30 Spumante lead-in

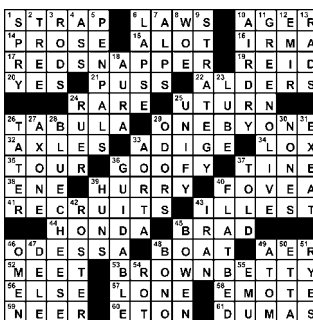


EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

- 33 Narrow inlets
35 Wardrobe cabinet
37 Utmost degree
38 Book addendum
39 Put on notice
40 Singing style popularized by Louis Armstrong
43 Howe'er
44 Mrs. Washington
45 Warm welcomes
46 Some purchasers of candy and flowers
47 Hire, as an attorney

- 49 Giggle nervously
52 Type of camera, for short
54 Maestro Zubin
56 Abbreviation akin to etc.
57 Forum wrap
60 Pandemic disease of 1918
61 Type of wax
62 Palindromic honorific
63 Myrna of movies

Yesterday's Solution



SUDOKU | MEDIUM

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and computer program.

Need more Su[doku]?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

4	7	6	3	9	1	5	8	2
1	9	3	8	5	2	6	7	4
2	8	5	7	6	4	3	9	1
5	3	4	1	2	9	7	6	8
6	1	7	5	4	8	2	3	9
9	2	8	6	3	7	4	1	5
8	5	9	2	7	3	1	4	6
7	4	2	9	1	6	8	5	3
3	6	1	4	8	5	9	2	7

		2	9	3				
4			5				2	
7	6							
	8	1						9
			8		1			
5						2	1	
							8	7
	9			6				1
			7	5	4			

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Saturday, December 13

4:30 p.m. Islamic Vocal Music

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Joshua Salam

"Celebrate Neo-Soul Nasheed"



Sunday, December 14

2:30 Holiday Concert

The Lilliput Rose Garden Orchestra

"Joy to the World"



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2:30 p.m. Buddhist Voices

SGI-USA New Century Chorus

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[on the]spot

*** NAME: Leslie Buxbaum Danzig**
GIG: 500 Clown director and company member

"500 CLOWN AND the Elephant Deal" is the latest installment from a group that takes classic literature and blends it with acrobatics and music. 500 Clown spent nine months in residency at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland to develop the commissioned work, and UMD theater students are supporting cast members in the show. In the words of Danzig, the Chicago-based troupe puts on "a hybrid of cabaret, theater, clown and musical." She talked about the creative process and what audiences should expect.

What does 500 Clown stand for?
 When we were starting our first show in 2000, we weren't a specific company yet, and there were five

of us, so we were calling our show "5 Clown." But then one person couldn't do it, then another couldn't, so we were like, what the hell, we'll just call it "500 Clown." We called our company "F," but the audience kept referring to us as "500 Clown," and since then we've been interpreting it in various ways.

So the audience shouldn't expect to see people in clown makeup?

No, they should expect something that looks more like theater, but that's influenced by clown. The influences that come from clown are immediacy, vulnerability, a sense of discovery and a fierce sense of play. It's definitely for adults, and there are no red noses, no big hair, no makeup and no clown shoes. Sometimes we say we're more influenced by the work of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin.

Where does the text for "500 Clown



The actor-clowns of 500 Clown take on Bertolt Brecht in their show "Elephant Deal."

and the Elephant Deal" come from?

It's a play by Bertolt Brecht, "A Man's a Man," which is not a well-known text at all. We were really inspired by the play and used that as a launching point. All our pieces are totally original, but this one doesn't have a clear reference that someone will recognize.

What are you using from Brecht?

In the play, a man is dead and he

has to decide whether to remain his dead self or become someone else who's alive and switch identities. That's a really compelling situation for a character to be in, and it became the principle for our show. We lost a lot of the circumstances that Brecht set up in his play, and I don't even know that if the way we've rendered the key scene is at all legible in our performance, but it was an inspiration for us.

"It's definitely for adults, and there are no red noses, no big hair, no makeup."

How does improvisation fit into your performance?

All our performances have a lot of space for improv — by improv, I mean that things just happen spontaneously. We don't bring people onstage or give them unwanted attention, but we create a relationship in the theater and things that happen are individual to that performance.

AMY CAVANAUGH

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Death of a Salesman's Soul

Cutthroat small-timers swear and suffer in 'Glengarry Glen Ross'

STAGE | The shape of real estate these days is enough to cause anyone to curse repeatedly for 90 minutes.

Thus, Keegan Theatre's production of David Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross" seems particularly timely. Staged at Church Street Theater and ably directed by Jeremy Skidmore, the 1982 play features real estate salesmen battling themselves and each other for survival.

Act One takes place entirely at a Chinese restaurant the salesmen favor for its proximity and apparent disregard of its customers. At one table, the washed-up Shelley Levene (Kevin Adams) cajoles, insults and eventually bribes the office manager,



NUMBERS GAME: Ricky Roma (Mark A. Rhea) with Aaronow (Stan Shulman).

Williamson (Colin Smith), into giving him the most promising leads, which currently are reserved for powerhouse Ricky Roma.

At another table, Moss (Peter Finnegan) and Aaronow (Stan Shulman) gripe about the pressure to sell; the conversation takes a turn when

Moss suggests burgling the office and selling the company's leads to a rival. Finally, Roma (Mark Rhea) arrives, captivating a passive diner with his ruminations on bowel movements and regret.

As anyone who has seen the play — or the 1992 film adaptation — knows, it's a dialogue-heavy affair, requiring actors who can handle the staccato rhythms and furious and at-times creative uses of profanity.

Fortunately, Keegan's talented cast shows such facility, particularly Adams as the desperate-for-a-comeback Levene and Rhea as the ruthless-yet-charismatic Roma.

ERIN TROMPETER

→ *Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St. NW; through Dec. 20, \$25-\$30; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com. (Dupont Circle)*

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More Rock, Less Shock

Sooner or later, you'll give in to the bizarre theatrics of Gwar

MUSIC | It is difficult to tell which of David Brockie's stories are true.

He'll tell you, for example, that he used to carry liquid LSD around at parties, squirting it into the eyes of strangers. He'll tell you that first-wave D.C. punks like Ian MacKaye and Henry Rollins used to beat him mercilessly, barely letting him escape alive. He'll tell you that he once lived in a giant milk bottle and it was a wonderful life. He'll tell you that he's an alien warlord named Oderus Urungus.

Maintaining this last assertion has occupied most of the past quarter-century of Brockie's life.

Gwar has never had a hit song or album, but the band is a revered cult act.

Oderus is the beastly mouthpiece of Gwar, which is, as the myth runs, a demented, debauched, drug-addled band of bellicose space monsters exiled to our planet by the Master and frozen in Antarctica. They were eventually thawed and freed by Sleazy P. Martini, a known pimp, pornographer, pusher and record label executive. Martini taught the members of Gwar how to play their instruments and signed them to Capitalist Records.

In the decades since Martini unleashed Gwar, his befuddled war-masters have tried to write songs that will attract the humans — so they can exterminate us — and have also sought to return to deep space.

"For various reasons," Brockie offers, "they've always failed miserably."

They have succeeded, however, in melding taboo-obsessed shock rock tropes (bestiality, rape, the employment of Joan Rivers' femur in the snorting of her brain and so

THIS MEANS GWAR: Between the costumes and stage show, they're a freaky band, the kind you don't take home to Mother.

forth) with satire, parody, slapstick, pummeling music and absurdist theater. In doing this, the dozens of rock slaves who have drifted in and out of the sprawling Gwar universe have created something singular and enduring. It's smart, dumb and really, really funny.

Gwar has never had a hit song or album, but the band is a revered, prosperous cult act that seems more popular than ever, probably because it's a rare middle-aged group whose recent albums are far interesting than its initial offerings.

Brockie believes Gwar's dogged persistence will eventually wear society down, until his band is acknowledged as one of rock's great acts, comparable to the Beatles. He appears to actually believe this.

While that proposition is dodgy, Brockie's contention that Gwar presents an unmatched stage show is irrefutable. Gwar's heavily costumed concerts are immersive sensory onslaughts. Urungus and crew spew an impressive range of heavy metals with virtuosic dexterity. The weeping guitars, thrashing assaults, impaling hooks and so forth are all very good for attracting the humans. Gwar also spews oceans of fake bodily fluids on its fans, which is also, perhaps surprisingly, very good for attracting humans.

As Oderus bellows convoluted narratives about, say, trying to escape Earth by drilling to Hell and subjugating a Jewish Satan ("Jewcifer," naturally), the alien

warlords' many onstage "slaves" stay busy feeding celebrities to the World Maggot, decapitating politicians or perhaps just fighting each other. There is a dinosaur and an intricate light show and carefully wrought video projections.

Sensible readers may wonder what occurred in Brockie's childhood, but the singer says Gwar is, rather, rooted in his adolescence. He grew up in Fairfax and was an eager teen attending concerts during the early '80s D.C. punk explosion.

Brockie says that, among the first generation of D.C. punks, a militant, humorless, straightlaced ideology was pervasive and oppressive and that the loopy, over-the-top Gwar "was a direct reaction against a very controlling, very limited form

of expression they were trying to force on people."

At 18, Brockie fled for Richmond, Va., where he found a far more open-ended and accepting music scene, attended Virginia Commonwealth University, lived in a former milk bottling plant and became part of a community of "talented, motivated, crazy artists." A freewheeling group of theater buffs and rockers became the nucleus of Gwar. The band, of

“As far as working in the deeper meanings, the hidden truths ... we're really going to go off.”

which Brockie is the sole remaining original member (other old-timers persist in other parts of the unwieldy cottage industry) started out playing Misfits-style punk, but as Gwar became more established, its wardrobe grew more elaborate and so did its riffs. The band slowly morphed into the metal machine it is today.

"I defy you to listen to punk for 30 years and not get bored," Brockie said, explaining.

The frontman inevitably deems Gwar's current tour — hitting the 9:30 Club on Sunday — the band's most astounding, elaborate production to date, and he's already deep into planning Gwar's 25th anniversary extravaganza.

"It's going to be our most epic struggle yet," he said. "And as far as working in the deeper meanings, the hidden truths, the riddles, we're really going to go off unlike we've ever done before."

And, then, as part of Brockie's plan to wear you into submission, "When we get too old to do this, we'll have replacements. Son of Oderus will be born. And Oderus will show up in a wheelchair every now and then, at the top of a big ramp. And they'll push him down the ramp and, 'Oh, no! The brakes don't work!' And he'll go flying into the audience and explode."

TIM FOLLOS

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Oy, Beautiful!

Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad get to be naughty all year

OUT & ABOUT | A good number of American comedians have come from Jewish backgrounds, but rarely have they been as explicitly Jewish as the comedians in "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad." Or as explicit. The unorthodox revue attempts to turn old stereotypes upside down with a mix of burlesque routines, risqué jokes and musical spoofs. There's even some politics thrown into the mix.

"We have not existed without a lot of angry letters, but we're not onstage singing 'Kumbaya.'"

SUSANNAH PERLMAN,
NICE JEWISH GIRLS GONE BAD

The ringleader is Susannah "Goddess" Perlman, a Manhattan-based performer who founded the troupe six years ago and likes to toss off lines like "I put the whore in hora" onstage. Perlman is also the one constant in the revolving door of performers who have attracted attention in all the places expected (like Jewish community centers) and unexpected (like red-state colleges).

What inspired the concept of the troupe?

I had been doing comedy and music and kept on running into amazing Jewish women who had their own acts. Their material spoke to me profoundly. A friend of mine had a plus-size troupe and I thought I could do something very similar, only Jewish, and maybe since I do stand-up it could be a little more comedy-oriented.

Are non-Jews baffled by some of the cultural references?

Never. Non-Jews love the show. We do have a thing built within the show welcoming people who



BABES AND BAGELS: Trust us — Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad live up to their billing.

aren't Jewish and talking about the specific things that we deal with. I don't think that the show is especially esoteric.

I read there was a Hasidic strip routine, which made me wonder how many people get offended.

We have our share of people who come to the show and it's not exactly what they wanted. But then we've had Hasidic Jews in the audience who loved it. And I think the strip is done sort of as a cheeky fun thing. It's interesting the people who we've offended on the left and the right. I think it's pretty equal. We have not existed without a lot of angry letters, but we're not onstage singing "Kumbaya." Sometimes people are

too stuck in their political correctness to truly enjoy it.

There's a line in the show: "You get dinner on JDate, but you get laid on Craigslist." Did you try them both for artistic purposes?

No, it was actually for very sincere reasons. I didn't get a boyfriend off of JDate, but I did get an investor for my show. But I did actually get a boyfriend off of Craigslist who had grown up religious and was technically a rabbi. I'm kind of offline right now because I'm letting them come to me. **TONY SCLAFANI**

→ *Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Sun., 7:30 p.m., \$20; 703-549-7500, birchmere.com.*

Holidays On Very Thin Ice

Merry Christmas, movie house! AFI celebrates the season

FILM | AFI Silver's "Holiday Cinema: Naughty and Nice" cranks the holiday cheer to 11 on Friday as it begins showing "It's Wonderful Life" every day through the 25th.

This classic has plenty of corn that's worth popping. But damned if Jimmy Stewart's George Bailey isn't desperation personified, be it on the bridge or during his prayer in the bar before his attempted suicide. Plus, we have Old Man Potter, the Montgomery Burns of the '40s, admitting that "most people hate me, but I don't like them, either, so that makes it all even."

For anyone who needs some salt with their sugar, the AFI also offers "Bad Santa," the Coen Brothers-produced, coal-black comedy with Billy Bob Thornton as a mall Santa by day, mall robber by night, and vile person 24/7. Yes, there's some Christmas redemption, but not before Billy Bob traumatizes



Billy Bob Thornton is all naughty, no nice as the titular "Bad Santa."

masses of kids, lands a girlfriend with a Santa fetish, and Bernie Mac receives a hilariously profane smackdown from an elf.

More suitable for all ages is the 1977 Muppet special "Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas." Even adults who aren't fans of the 1971 children's book should like the detailed sets and puppets as well as the talent competition at the end. The songs are largely forgettable with the exception of the scene-stealing Riverbottom Gang, whose heavy metal number would bring to mind Deep Purple if Deep Purple had a pop-eyed catfish on backing vocals. **PAUL STELTER**

→ *AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; through Dec. 25, \$10, 301-495-6700. (Silver Spring)*

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Jingle All the Weird

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones ring twists on the classics

MUSIC | "Jingle Bells," the first song on Bela Fleck and the Flecktones' new holiday album, "Jingle All the Way," opens with sleigh bells and what sounds like a pack of horses, then the singing starts.

But it's not pretty, Western vocals — this is throat singing performed by Alash Ensemble from Tuva, an extremely southern district of Siberia. If you haven't heard throat singing, it's somewhat grating at first. And that's just how Fleck likes it.

"For me, a lot of the coolest things are jarring when you first hear them," he said. "When you first drink coffee, it's kind of jarring. When I first heard bluegrass, the vocals were kind of jarring, but a lot of people have that experience with Tuvan vocals. When you first hear it, it's this horrible sound, but then you realize it's gorgeous."



IT'S THE SEASON: Bela Fleck, third from left, and the Flecktones take Christmas favorites to dark, strange new places.

The song settles down from there, if a group with a banjo, saxophones, bass and drums playing "Jingle Bells" is your idea of settling down. Fleck said the band had

wanted to make a Christmas album since it first formed, and this year, it made sense.

"I think it was the first year when we were actually on tour and Christ-

mas rolled around that we started doing Christmas music as part of our show," Fleck said.

What we get are 16 holiday-inspired songs — one of which is

"The Hannukah Waltz" — all with the Flecktones' distinct touch. Just like a Flecktones original, the songs shift from bluegrass to jazz to funk

The 16 holiday-themed songs all have the Flecktones' distinct touch.

to world-inspired, sometimes within one song. The most interesting may be "The 12 Days of Christmas," which is in 12 keys and 12 different time signatures, a challenge inspired by jazz greats like Charlie Parker.

"We got the idea early of doing it in 12 keys because it seemed to be pre-ordained that it be done," Fleck said of the song. "And then we also got the idea of doing it in 12 time signatures. ... There was something sort of macho about doing something in 12 keys and 12 time signatures that appealed to us and would be hard to do for us. And it worked, which was amazing, how well it did."

RUDI GREENBERG

→ *Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Sun., 7:30 p.m., \$35, 703-549-7500. birchmere.com*

Bright & Shiny Things

Shara Worden makes highly refined, literary music with pop smarts

MUSIC | If you've caught an earful of My Brightest Diamond's dramatic, artfully rendered songs and thought you detected a hint of classical music, you're on the right track. MBD is the nom de musique of multi-instrumentalist Shara Worden, who holds a BA in vocal performance and studied with opera heavyweights.

Worden's blending of classical and pop has earned her lots of praise for her two CDs, "Bring Me the Workhorse" and this year's "A Thousand Shark's Teeth." There are grandiose arrangements, trilling strings and her lithe larynx.

For her D.C. appearance, Worden will bring along a string trio and all



DIAMOND LIFE: Shara Worden's classical training comes into play on her records.

of her "toys," which include guitar, ukulele and African thumb piano. They'll create a sound Worden spent years developing: "I think in the beginning, because I was learning

how to arrange for strings, there was a lot of frustration. For a long time we were just playing in New York, and trying to refine things."

"Refined" is a good adjective

to describe Worden's poetic lyrics. She says inspiration from favorite old books helped her break away from writing "really crappy lyrics in high school.

"The lyrics from at least four songs [on the new album] are influenced by children's stories, whether it was 'Alice in Wonderland' or George MacDonald's 'At the Back of the North Wind.' The song 'Black & Costaud' is from a children's opera."

Worden has a sense of humor, too. That's where the puppets come in. "On the last song we perform, we bring in these puppets from the video for 'From the Top of the World,'" she explains. "They don't really play anything, but I consider them part of the band. But I told them not to let fame get to their heads." **TONY SCLAFANI**

→ *Rock and Roll Hotel, 1353 H St. NE; with Clare & the Reasons, Thu., 8:30 p.m., \$12 advance, \$14 door; 202-388-7625.*

GALLERY | GET REAL



EMPIRICAL WAIST: "Zenith for Real" closes out Zenith Gallery's 2008 with a bang — 15 artists whose painting and sculptures are somehow grounded in reality but as vastly different from one another as Donna McCullough's metal dresses, above, is from Robert C. Jackson's fruit-and-ladders sculpture.



WRITE ON: Humorist, non-fiction writer, enthusiastic food fan and "Deadline Poet" Calvin Trillin still has plenty to say.

Politics & Poetry

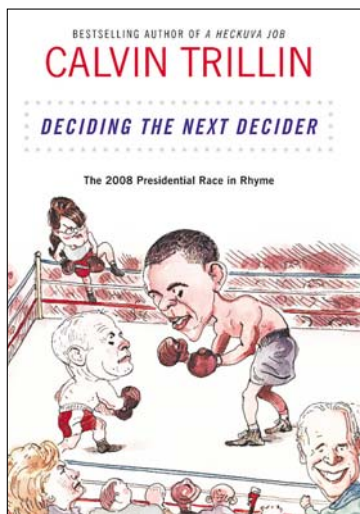
Calvin Trillin sets the 2008 presidential campaign to rhyme

PAGES | American polymath Calvin Trillin — the brilliant reporter, warm humorist and cheerful glutton — will read passages from his latest book, a collection of political doggerel called "Deciding the Next Decider," at Wesley United Methodist Church on Thursday.

Trillin has seemingly mastered every form of letters, writing widely read memoirs and essays, collections of gastronomic ruminations, various forms of fiction, indelible stories of true crime, poetry and on and on. It seems fair to ask: Is there any subject Trillin couldn't cover?

"Economics," he replied. "The only time I ever wrote about economics is a column about a couple who had come back from the Caribbean and they'd seen a voodoo economics ceremony. It was terrifying."

Trillin has been the Nation's magazine "Deadline Poet" since



1990. Many of his recent verses for Nation are "embedded" within the larger narrative of "Decider," which, with verve and meter, faithfully recounts the twists and turns of the presidential race. While the campaign may have seemed interminable, the poems about it are brisk, funny and insightful.

Typical of "Decider" is "As Daf-fodils Come Out in the Spring":

"So Nader's going to run again/The Times put that on page 15/There's nothing that's much sadder than/An ego trip that's barely seen."

Despite his gig, Trillin, 74, believes he's not as engaged as most Nation readers. "I said once that the circulation of the Nation was several hundred librarians and eight unreconstructed Trotskyites," he recalled. "Somebody pulled me aside and told me Trotskyites didn't read the Nation. It was opposed to Trotsky. So I think of myself as a little ignorant when it comes to that sort of politics."

In discussing whether our new regime should abjure "overreach," however, Trillin gave himself away. He allowed that "Democrats in Congress aren't Bolsheviks. Most of them are pretty middle-of-the-road. They're Mensheviks."

TIM FOLLOS

→ Wesley United Methodist Church, 5312 Connecticut Ave. NW; Thu., 7 p.m., free; 800-722-0790. (Woodley Park-Zoo)

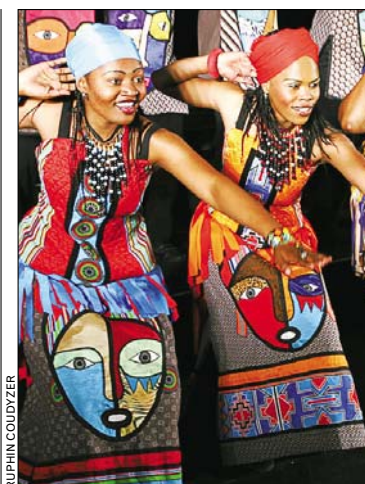
Songs of Unity And Love

Soweto Gospel Choir melds African verve and Christian hymns

MUSIC | The Soweto Gospel Choir may be a Christian group from South Africa, but you need not be saved to enjoy its music: "We don't only perform for Christians," said Shimmy Jiyane, assistant music director and choreographer. "You don't have to be a Christian to enjoy our show; you just have to come."

After all, South Africans have been forced to figure out ways to get along despite the nation's many different ethnicities, religions and cultures. "In our country, we have 11 different official languages, and we have 20 to 40 cultures that are different," Jiyane said.

You can hear the choir's multi-ethnic, multi-tongued approach on their recent CD and DVD, "Live at the Nelson Mandela Theatre," which was just nominated for a Grammy in the best contemporary world music album category. That's a strange designation for a CD that's made



The Soweto Gospel Choir takes a multi-ethnic, multi-language approach.

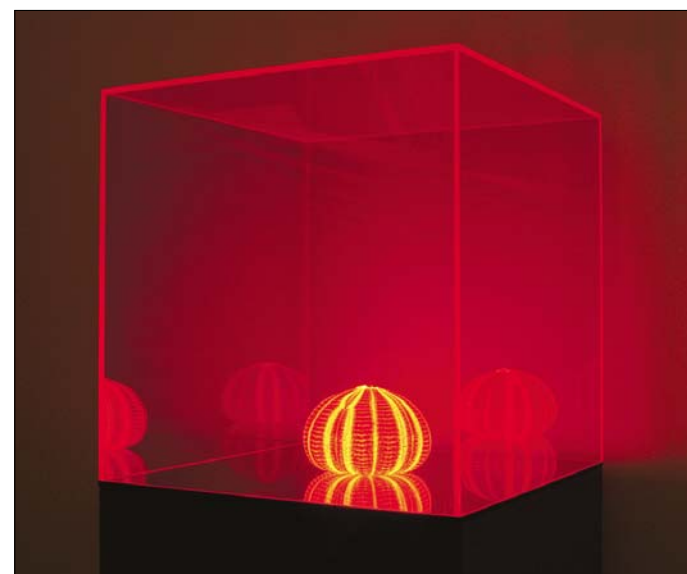
up primarily of "songs taken from the hymn books, which have been done for a long time by our elders," Jiyane said. But the group does mix in contemporary tunes, including Bob Dylan's "I'll Remember You" and Bob Marley's "One Love."

"One Love" is a song that talks about unity, it's a song that speaks about peace, it's a song that deals with the human spirit," Jiyane said. "We do songs with a strong message, so when we do it and we put our African feel on them, we make sure people can feel the spirit of Africa — and the spirit of unity and love."

CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

→ Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane; Fri., 8 p.m., \$25-\$45; 301-581-5100. (Grosvenor-Strathmore)

GALLERY | DRINK TO LIFE



THE WET STUFF: It takes eight glasses a day for health, and 35 artists for an examination of the physical, psychological, metaphysical and aesthetic qualities of water. At Pepco's Edison Place Gallery, "Aquifer" provides a look at the substance that drives and comprises much of humanity.

COURTESY EDISON PLACE GALLERY

Theater of Dreams

Kendall Messick documents a silver screen obsession

GALLERY | You never know what people have in their basements. In the case of Gordon Brinckle, it was a movie theater.

Granted, Brinckle was a man obsessed. Over the course of 40 years, he built a nine-seat homage to the opulent movie palaces of the 1920s. The basement of his small Delaware home had a ticket office, a marquee and an organ. He dubbed his theater the Alvin Shalimar, after a beloved grandfather.

Photographer Kendall Messick was 4 when his family moved across the street from the Brinckles. Brinckle's only daughter, Sandy,

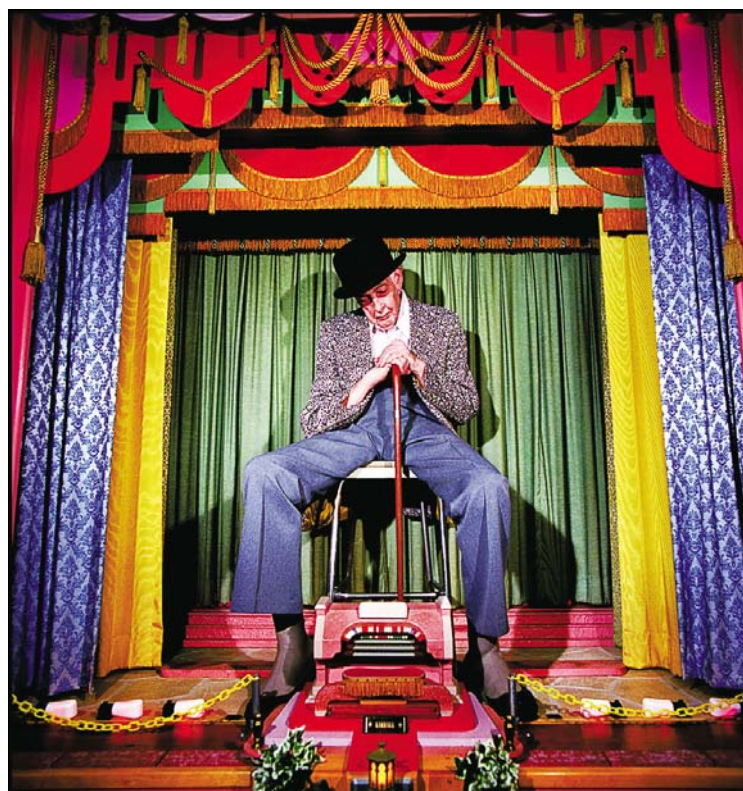
baby-set Messick.

In 2001, decades after once seeing Gordon's theater as a kid, Messick was visiting his parents when Sandy died unexpectedly. Messick crossed the street to offer sympathy.

He asked after the theater, "and Gordon said, 'She's decorated for Christmas; would you like to see her?'"

Gordon Brinckle grew up yearning to be a projectionist, the same way kids today want to be astronauts. Projecting films was a union job, and you had to know people; he didn't, so he took tickets and ushered.

At 27, he was drafted for World War II, and on a whim, claimed to be a projectionist. The Army had him screen training films. No square, he brought in a Victrola to



CINEMATHIQUE: Gordon Brinckle presides over his circus-colored movie theater.

jazz them up.

After his Army tour, he had no trouble landing a job as a projectionist. Dream fulfilled? Brinckle was a man who thought about movie theaters the way some men

think about classic cars or football, and he began to build his basement theater in 1959. "Most people would have considered it finished in 1960," says Messick, "but he kept embellishing it."

The greatest curiosity is that he didn't screen films much. Oh, the projectors ran, and he'd dress up in his usher's suit for visitors, but he tweaked the Shalimar rather than using it.

Two years after meeting Brinckle again, Messick finished the documentary of Gordon's life story and switched to still photography.

The photographs are mischievous. You can roll your eyes as Gordon brings out the garbage; you can grin at him dancing in front of empty seats. It's about how people can "pursue their own dreams in nontraditional ways," says Messick. "Gordon's dream of owning a movie theater was not [financially possible], but he created it nonetheless."

Brinckle and his wife died in 2007. But the Shalimar is safe: after Gordon started having trouble getting downstairs, Messick hired a company to make blueprints of the theater. "Then, with Gordon's go-ahead, they dismantled it and rebuilt it in [parts]" as a display and put it in storage for safekeeping. **CHRIS COMBS (EXPRESS)**

→ *Hemphill Fine Arts, 1515 14th St. NW; through Dec. 20, free; 202-234-601, hemphillfinearts.com.*

MUSEUM | THE COMPANY SHE KEEPS



COURTESY NWWA

CONNECTED: Understanding someone's art sometimes requires understanding someone's friends, and "Mary Cassatt: Friends and Family" at the National Museum of Women in the Arts colorfully explores those themes. Cassatt's powerful and intimate portraits of the social and private lives of women are juxtaposed against the friendships that inspired those works.

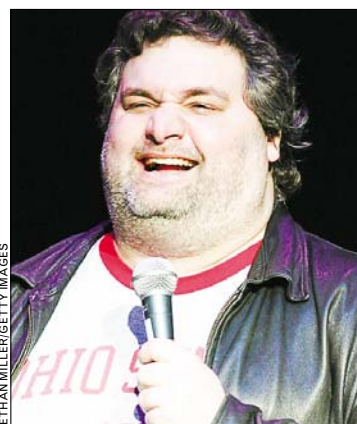
Falstaff's Secret Tears

Comic Artie Lange battles his demons hilariously, publicly

COMEDY | Artie Lange is haunted. Not by hard drugs, bad food, gambling, alcohol or failed relationships — though there are those, too, and Lange has spoken about all of it, hilariously, for the past seven years on "The Howard Stern Show." But what has turned this larger-than-life funnyman into a tragicomic figure is the paralysis of his father, Arthur Lange Sr., his own tremor about the accident and his chronic self-sabotage since then.

The tales Lange Jr. tells about Pop and his own crazy life come alive with empathy, sadness and humor in "Too Fat To Fish," which debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times' best-seller list. Yet Lange can't enjoy it.

"I'm just a miserable person," he



ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Lange sublimates his pain — and pizza.

said in his gravelly Jersey voice. "That really is a paradox. Our business is to make people laugh, and we're figuring out how to be happy."

Lange's everyman anhedonia is part of the reason he's so beloved by Stern fans: They feel a tremendous connection to the comedian, who sabotages any positive momentum in his life — and that leads to his

many amazing life stories.

"A lot of people, by nature, think negativity is funny. I've always thought that way," Lange said. "If your entire life is to put a negative spin on stuff to make it funny, then eventually you're going to become a negative person."

Part of Lange's misery stems from his inability to relax, which is why he's signing "Too Fat To Fish" in Baltimore on Thursday and doing stand-up in D.C. on Friday.

"I never considered myself a workaholic, but the truth is I do torture myself," Lange said. "I'm breaking my ass because I feel in a couple of years I might be begging for work. ... [But] I'm just horribly unhealthy, and if I drop dead while making all this money, it will be worthless."

CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

→ *Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW; opens Fri., \$55-\$95; 202-488-3300, thelincolntheatre.org. (U St.-Cardozo)*

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BLURRING THE LINES: Michael Borek's images are painterly and full of ambiguity.

Night for Day For ... Night

Michael Borek's
photographs hang
in an eternal twilight

PHOTOGRAPHY | "Some people call me very perverse," says photographer Michael Borek. This might be because, as he puts it, he uses "a \$7,000 [digital] camera with a \$20 plastic lens" attached instead of modern, precision-coated glass optics. His plastic periscope comes from a camera named the Holga, the darling of art-school photographers for the last decade, and one built about as well as a cereal-box toy.

"That Holga is helping me let go — I was obsessed with sharpness," says Borek. The Holga lens, charitably described as smeary, "lets me play more. You can do some of its effects in Photoshop, but the Holga does it more unpredictably."

But Borek doesn't claim photo-Puritanism: for "Wide Asleep," his solo show at the Czech Embassy, Borek (who cites painters Giorgio de Chirico and Paul Delvaux among his influences) channeled the Surrealists in Photoshop form. He photographed scenes and then altered their lighting to grant them an unearthly ambiguity. You can't tell whether his pictures are from night or day, and that's just the way he likes it.

A balloon floats serenely in a near-idyllic scene, shown with

nostalgia-inducing haziness and looming dark corners. Jesus on the cross creeps in silhouette out of the shadows of a photograph from Kolodje. Bridges glint, twinkling in the deep darkness of the Montgomery County countryside at twilight. It might be hard to get into Borek's brooding, mysterious photographs, particularly in the sunny Czech Embassy — this show is best visited on a cloudy day — but his worldview grows on you.

Borek, by day a Czech interpreter, strives for what he calls the Campari effect. "It's an Italian drink that's made of herbs. It's red in color; it tastes very strange, almost like a medicine. Whenever I order Campari, my first reaction is, 'What did I do again? I really don't enjoy [Campari] that much.' And I finish that drink, and I think, 'You know, there's something about it that I like, and I'm not sure, but I think I want another one.'"

"Photography should have that effect; I usually find that if I like some picture immediately, and then after some time I look at it again, there's nothing left. You might not like it initially, but later, for some reason, you feel that you need to look at it again."

CHRIS COMBS (EXPRESS)

→ Embassy of the Czech Republic; 3900 Spring of Freedom St. NW; through Dec. 15; 202-274-9105.

Bang for Your Bucks

Wes Anderson's 'Bottle Rocket' is a crime-comedy blast

DVD | Early in "Bottle Rocket," the first film directed by Wes Anderson and co-written with Owen Wilson, there's a moment that points to the whimsy of all their subsequent films.

Three friends — played by Robert Musgrave and brothers Owen and Luke Wilson — have recently decided to embark on a life of small-time crime, so of course they need a gun. They drive out to a field to test-shoot several models, finally deciding on the largest and loudest of the lot.

Rather than score the scene with an ominous overture or an aggres-

sive rock track, Anderson uses "Skating," from Vince Guaraldi's soundtrack to "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown."

It's an implausible choice for incidental music, but somehow it works, subtly revealing the characters' innocence as they live out their naïve idea of criminal life. Anderson may have become better known for resurrecting '60s garage rock tracks (the rest of "Bottle Rocket" makes great use of Love and the Rolling Stones), but "Skating" makes this his quintessential scene: It only appears superficially ironic, but ultimately proves both humorous and poignant.

"Bottle Rocket" was a cult flick before Anderson and Wilson co-wrote "Rushmore" in 1998 and the "Royal Tenenbaums" in 2001.



GUN-TOTING: Robert Musgrave, Luke Wilson and Owen Wilson turn to crime.

It's based on a short film the two friends made in Dallas in 1992, and the gem of the long-awaited Crite-

rior set (the company has released almost all of Anderson's subsequent films) is this 13-minute black-and-

white short, which was previously available only on Youtube and which shows just how fully realized these characters were.

The ringleader, Dignan, who sees himself as Robin Hood with a strong Texas drawl, is Owen Wilson's meatiest and best performance to date. He has limited acting range, but is a great comic improviser, giving throwaway comments the impact of punchlines.

No other director has displayed such an easy understanding of Wilson's strengths, but Anderson lets his camera linger, allowing Wilson to carry on in the background of scenes, tossing out lines that take repeated viewings to catch.

Together, they make Dignan a mix of contradictions: clueless, naïve, blundering, deluded, yet charming, hilarious and ultimately heartbreaking. "Bottle Rocket" may be Anderson's most grounded film, but that only makes it his most magical.

STEPHEN M. DEUSNER

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 | Four Christmases

There's a good movie here underneath the baloney and ham, but we never get much of a taste. **DAN ZAK**

2 | Twilight

The film makes the human-vampire love affair convincing by finding the flesh-and-blood humanity in Bella and Edward. **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN**

3 | Bolt

As sprightly and determined as its yappy lead, this new Disney animated film works hard to be all things to all people, with mixed results. **DAN KOIS**

4 | Australia

This wildly ambitious, luridly indulgent spectacle of romance, action, melodrama and historic revisionism genuflects toward old-school Hollywood schmaltz. **ANN HORNADAY**

5 | Quantum of Solace

Daniel Craig stars as James Bond in the newest and most joyless installment of one of cinema's most venera-



Beyoncé raises the roof as troubled singer Etta James in "Cadillac Records."

ble franchises. **ANN HORNADAY**

6 | Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

Visually captivating, this sequel to the 2005 hit suffers from a plethora of subplots and suggestive humor. **ANN HORNADAY**

7 | Transporter 3

Jason Statham handles the silly action with the same brooding intensity of the first films, though it seems increasingly irrelevant. **MIKE MAYO**

8 | Punisher: War Zone

An almost entirely dreary sequel to

the 2004 film adaptation of the Marvel Comics series about tortured vigilante Frank Castle (Ray Stevenson). **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN**

9 | Cadillac Records

The swirl of history energizes this chronicle of 1950s music powerhouse Chess Records, but cramming in that history doesn't leave much room for story. **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN**

10 | Role Models

Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott play dimwit losers who must do community service mentoring troubled teens. **NEELY TUCKER**

Indies&Arties

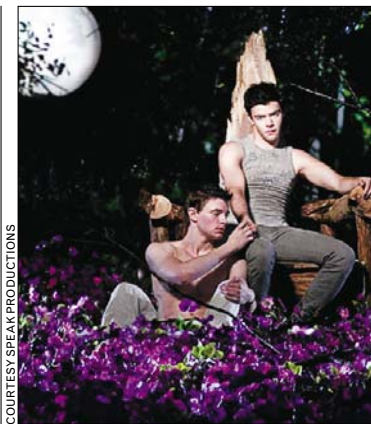
'Were the World Mine'

Mix two parts Shakespearean comedy with one part alternative-tinted "High School Musical," and the resulting concoction might look something like the award winning "Were the World Mine," opening at E Street Cinema on Friday. Preparing for a production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream," persecuted gay teen Timothy (Tanner Cohen) is given the, uh, puckish ability to bestow a sexuality-altering love potion on the unsuspecting, and proceeds to turn his narrow-minded town inside out.

→ E STREET CINEMA, 555 ITH ST. NW; OPENS FRI., \$10, 202-452-7672, LANDMARKTHEATRES.COM. (METRO CENTER)

'Labyrinth'

Be careful what you wish for, because David Bowie might dress up as the Goblin King and make it come true. Starring the ageless androgynous icon, "Labyrinth" emerged from the late 1980s collective braingasm of Jim Henson, Terry Jones and George Lucas and burned itself into the pop-culture subconscious of an unsuspecting generation and is this week's addition to "Friday and Saturday



A love potion strews madness in the gay musical "Were the World Mine."

Midnights" at E Street Cinema.

→ E STREET CINEMA, 555 ITH ST. NW; FRI. & SAT., MIDNIGHT, \$10, 202-452-7672, LANDMARKTHEATRES.COM. (METRO CENTER)

Jewish Film Festival

Aging, identity and family ties are tied together around memories of the Holocaust in French filmmaker Noémie Lvovsky's "Let's Dance!" This heartwarming story of a funeral-dodging, tap-dancing 80-year-old is the closing attraction of the 19th Washington Jewish Film Festival, showing on Sunday at the Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater.

→ AARON & CECILE GOLDMAN THEATER, 1529 16TH ST. NW; SUN., 7 P.M., \$20, 800-494-8497, WJFF.ORG.

WeekendPass | Entertainment



4 Cheat Sheet: He's a She

It may offer one of the most confusing plot synopses in the history of theater, but Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" is still one of the funniest derivations on the whole "the course of true love never did run smooth" theme. Rebecca Bayla Taichman directs this Shakespeare Theatre Company production, running through Jan. 4. → *Shakespeare Theatre Company, 610 F St. NW; Thu. & Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$20-\$80; 202-547-1122. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*



2 A Bloody Good Show

You've watched enough ESPN and YouTube clips to know that Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is no soap opera-staged WWF, and on Saturday you can witness all the finesse and brutality live. "Battle at the Nation's Capital" will be only the second time an all-pro MMA fight has come to D.C., and the eight-card fight at the D.C. Armory should be anything but boring.

→ *DC Armory, 2001 E. Capital St.; Sat. 7 p.m., \$30-\$175, 877-750-4400 district-combatproductions.com.*



Sing We LOUDLY

It's the gift that just won't stop giving. The '90s yuletide hangover the Trans-Siberian Orchestra takes over Verizon Center on Sunday with its bombastic Christmas concept rock. This two-show spectacular will blow your mind and ears, but may not help you discover the true meaning of Christmas.

→ *Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW; Sun., 3 & 7:30 p.m., \$39 & \$49, 202-661-5000. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*

5 Think Ink

Your scribbling probably never looked anything like this. Sidney Lawrence's "Ink Cities" provides an imaginative look into 24 cities around the world through a collection of the eclectic artist's ink sketches. If the book's drawings aren't enough, Lawrence, whose "Recent Works" exhibit is up at District Fine Arts through Jan. 17, will be signing copies and providing personal sketches at DFA on Saturday.

→ *District Fine Arts, 1726 Wisconsin Ave., Sat., 4-6 p.m., "Recent Works" through Jan. 17, free; 202-328-9100.*



top stops WEEKEND

A New Nut To Crack

"The Nutcracker" may have established itself as your personal ghost of Christmas past, but the Washington Ballet can exorcise holiday demons with its D.C.-themed take on Tchaikovsky's classic. Cast George Washington as the Nutcracker, King George III as the Rat King and numbers dripping with cherry blossoms and it just might save your Christmas spirit.

→ *Warner Theatre, 513 13th St. NW; through Dec. 28th, \$29-\$93, 202-783-4000 warnertheatre.com. (Metro Center)*



The Scene

Sound

→ THURSDAY

Birchmere: Bela Fleck and the Flecktones' "Holiday Tour," 7:30 p.m., \$59.50.

Blues Alley: Dr. John, 8 & 10 p.m., \$50.

DC9: Nihilitia, Domino Team, Lastman with DJ Vinnie Von Blotto and Friends, 9 p.m., \$7.

Iota: Larry Keel, Natural Bridge, 9 p.m., \$12.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage: Beltway Brass Quintet, 6 p.m., free.

The Red and the Black: Noon:30, Alona, Candy Coated Pain Pills, the Right Nows, \$8, 9 p.m.

Rock and Roll Hotel: My Brightest Diamond, Clare & the Reasons, 9 p.m., \$12-\$14.

State Theatre: Santa Jam, 7 p.m., \$10 minimum donation.

Velvet Lounge: Poor but Sexy, the Blood-sugars, Typefighter, 9 p.m., \$8.

→ FRIDAY

9:30 Club: Shinedown, Halestorm, Sunday's Roulette, 7 p.m., sold out.

Birchmere: Four Bitchin' Babes, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

Black Cat: Gene Ween Band, 9 p.m., \$18. "Black Catatonia," '80s, hip-hop, soul, electronica with DJ DK, 10 p.m., \$5 (backstage).

DC9: "Liberation" dance party, 9 p.m., \$6.

Iota: Federal Reserve, 9 p.m., \$12.

Jammin' Java: Robbie Schaefer, John Jennings, 8 p.m., \$17-\$20.

The Red and the Black: Strip Mall Ballads, Southeast Engine, 9 p.m., \$10.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Jukebox the Ghost, the Postelles, Pretty & Nice, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Velvet Lounge: Pinche Gringo, Flying Eyes and Paper Tongue, 9 p.m., \$8.

→ SATURDAY

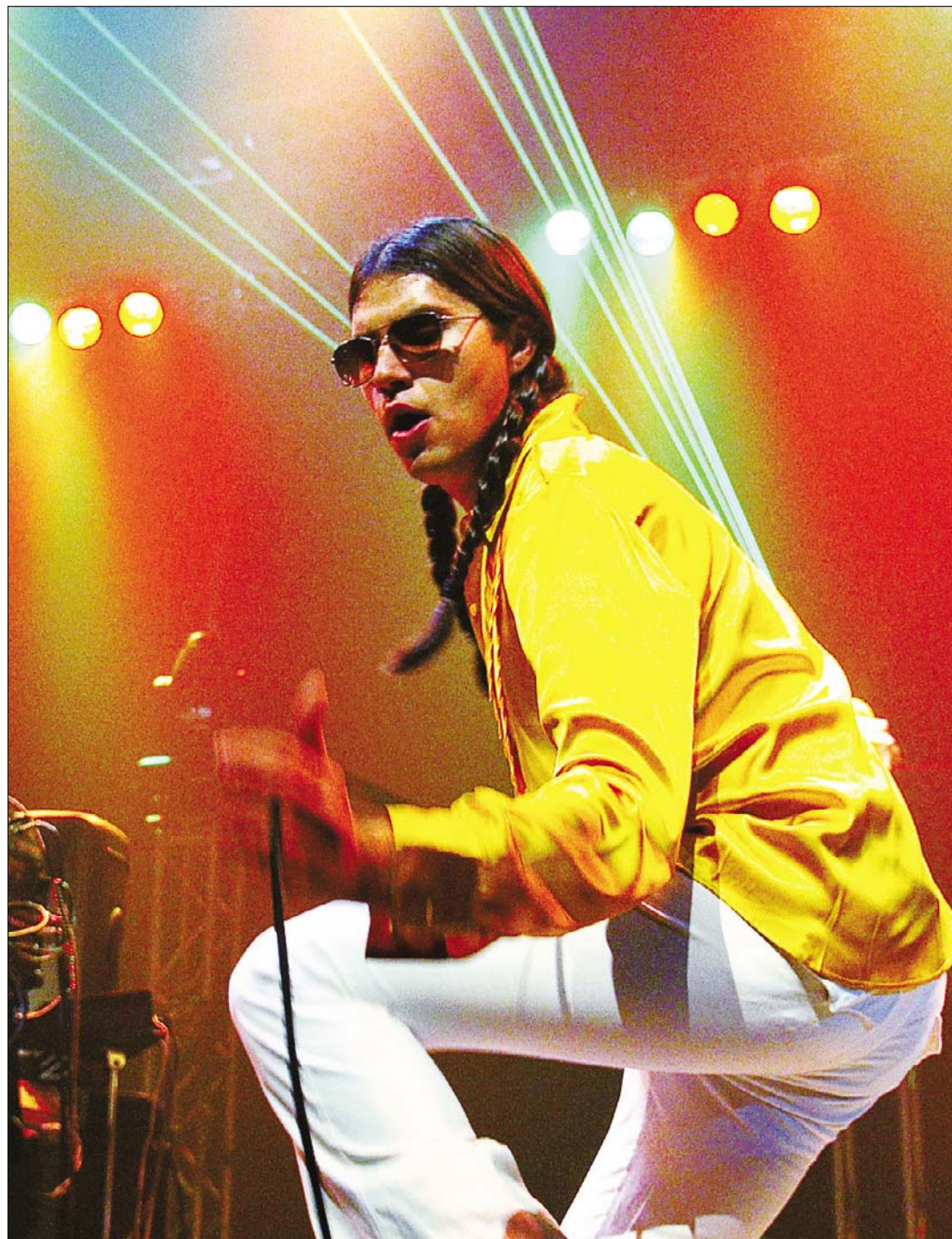
9:30 Club: Ghostland Observatory, Dmerit DJ set, 7 p.m., \$20.

Black Cat: Ted Leo, Cale Parks, 8 p.m., \$10. "Mousetrap," Britpop dance night, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

DC9: Feedback Dance Party with Instamatic, DJ Stereo Faith and the Rip off DJs, 9 p.m., free.

Iota: Ten Out of Tenn, 9:30 p.m., \$15.

Jammin' Java: Jeremy Enigk, Andy Zipf, Distrails, 9 p.m., \$18-\$20. Elizabeth Phil & Chris, 6 p.m., \$12.

DANCETRONICA | NATURAL MACHINE

TRASHY MOPED RECORDINGS

LASER FOCUS: An electronica-loving, acid-tripping Freddie Mercury doesn't start to describe the sound coming from a Ghostland Observatory-occupied stage. Doing its part to keep Austin weird, the two-member band makes strident, unabashed dance music they describe as "a robot making love to a tree." Tune in at the 9:30 Club on Saturday.

venues

→ **9:30 CLUB:** 815 V ST. NW; 202-930-0930, 930.COM.
 → **BIRCHMERE:** 3701 MT. VERNON AVE., ALEXANDRIA; 703-549-7500, BIRCHMERE.COM.
 → **BLACK CAT:** 1811 14TH ST. NW; 202-667-7960, BLACKCATDC.COM.
 → **BLUES ALLEY:** 1073 WISCONSIN AVE.

NW; 202-337-4141, BLUESALLEY.COM.
 → **CROSSROADS:** 4103 BALTIMORE AVE., BLADENSBURG, MD.; 301-927-1056, CROSSROADSCLUB.COM.
 → **DC9:** 1940 9TH ST. NW; 202-483-5000, DCNINE.COM.
 → **IOTA:** 2832 WILSON BLVD., ARLINGTON; 703-522-8340, IOTACLUBAND-CAFE.COM.
 → **JAMMIN' JAVA:** 227 MAPLE AVE., VIENNA; 703-255-1566, JAMMINJAVA.COM.
 → **KENNEDY CENTER:** 2700 F ST. NW;

202-467-4600, KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG.
 → **THE RED & THE BLACK:** 1212 H ST. NE; 202-399-3201, REDANDBLACKBAR.COM.
 → **ROCK AND ROLL HOTEL:** 1353 H ST. NE; 202-388-7625.
 → **STATE THEATRE:** 220 N. WASHINGTON, FALLS CHURCH; 703-237-0300.
 → **STRATHMORE:** 5301 TUCKERMAN LANE, BETHESDA; 301-581-5100.
 → **VELVET LOUNGE:** 915 U ST. NW; 202-462-3213, VELVETLOUNGEDC.COM.
 → **WOLF TRAP:** 1551 TRAP ROAD, VIENNA; 877-965-3872, WOLFTRAP.ORG.

"AN AMERICAN CLASSIC!"

A total triumph. If there's a better movie around this year, I haven't seen it. Sean Penn gives the performance of the year. James Franco is warmly funny. Emile Hirsch is sensational. Diego Luna excels. Alison Pill is excellent. Josh Brolin is simply astounding. Gus Van Sant's best film."

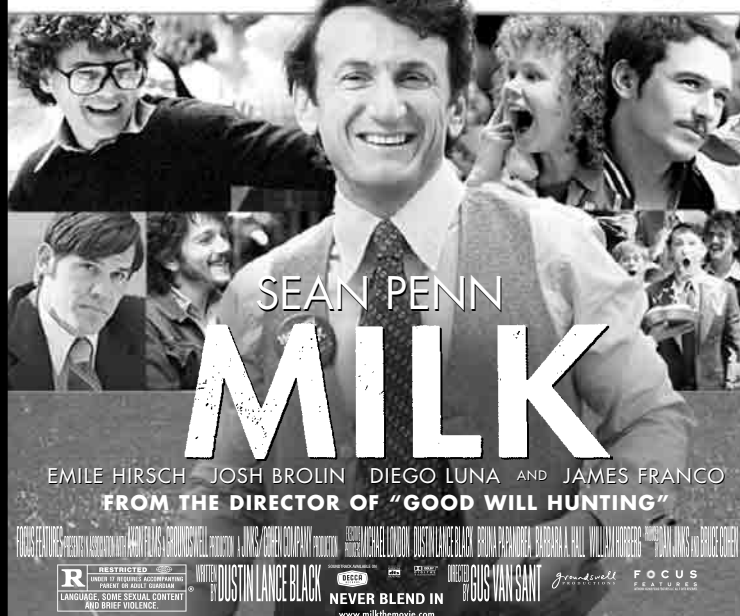
PETER TRAVERS *Rolling Stone*ROGER EBERT *Chicago Sun-Times*WESLEY MORRIS *The Boston Globe*

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DAVID DENBY *THE NEW YORKER*STEPHEN REBELLO *PLAYBOY*MICK LASALLE *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A MARVEL."

Its power lies in its uncanny balancing of nuance and scale, its ability to be about nearly everything — love, death, politics, sex, modernity — without losing sight of the intimate particulars of its story. Sean Penn, an actor of unmatched emotional intensity and physical discipline, outdoes himself here."

A.O. SCOTT *The New York Times*LOU LUMENICK *NEW YORK POST*MURSTAD *The Dallas Morning News*

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ECLECTIC POP | ONE-MAN BAND



ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ...: He can do just about everything, and on Saturday, the solo skills of indie jack-of-all trades Cale Parks will be on full display. The drummer/percussionist/pianist/vibraphonist brings his electronics-heavy eclectic-pop to the Black Cat in support of Ted Leo.

TheScene

Continued from E14

The Red and the Black: Free Lobster Buffet, Attention Shoppers, 9 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Soft Complex, Cedars, Jupiter One, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

State Theatre: Tab Benoit, 7 p.m., \$16-\$21.

Velvet Lounge: Blue Collar War, Left of Avalon, Circle 9, 9 p.m., \$8. Lily Neill, 6 p.m., \$10.

→ SUNDAY

9:30 Club: Gwar, Kingdom of Sorrow, Toxic Holocaust, 7 p.m., \$20.

Iota: Timothy Bracken Complex, Frank Hoier & the Weber Brothers, Curly & the Rocket, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Jammin' Java: Carrie Rodriguez, Carsie Blanton, 7 p.m., \$12-\$15.

National Museum of American History: Happy Holidays! Popular American Holiday Songs: 1941-1945, 11:30 a.m. a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 & 4 p.m., free.

Velvet Lounge: Mike Maloney & Derek Evry, 9 p.m., \$8.

Verizon Center: Trans-Siberian Orchestra, 3 & 7:30 p.m., \$39-\$49.

necticut Ave. NW; 202-234-3311, aaron-gallerydc.com.

Alexandria Black History Museum:

"Childhood Memories in Miniature: African American Dollhouses" miniatures by Sharon J. Frazier and Linwood M. Smioth, through Jan. 24. 902 Wythe St., Alexandria; 703-838-4356.

American Association for the

Advancement of Science: "Science Covers and Sculptures," original artwork appearing on the cover of Science magazine, and science-based sculpture, through Jan. 9. 12th & H streets NW; 202-326-6400, aaas.org.

American University/Katzen Arts:

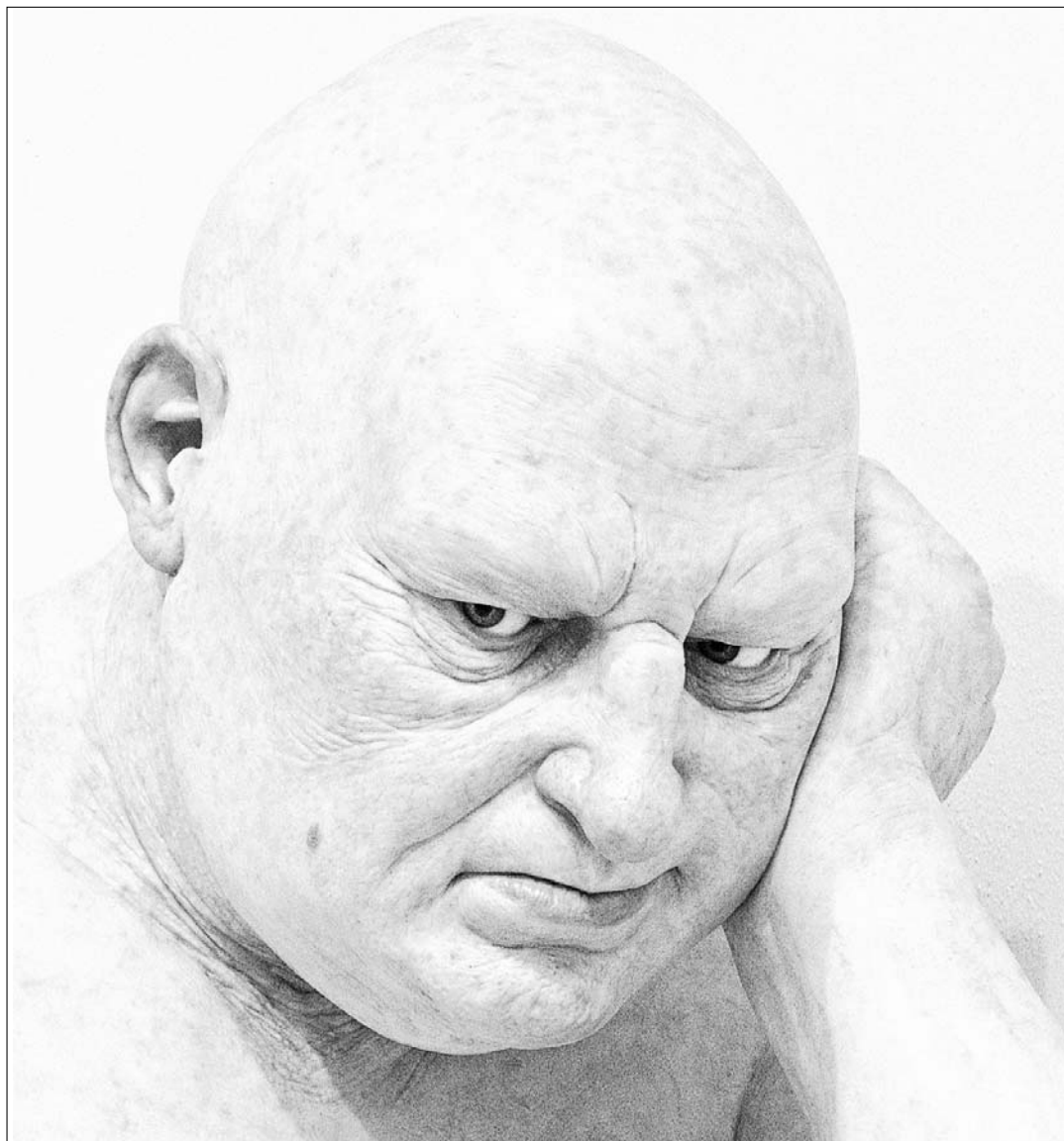
"Calentamiento Global," organized by the Association of Ibero-American Cultural Attachés, through Dec. 21. "Onthaasting: About Spare Time and Slower Worlds," thought-provoking Belgian video art, through Dec. 21. "Jae Ko: Ten Year Retrospective," through Dec. 21. "Dalya Luttwak," 20 zelded metal sculptures by the Israeli artist, through Jan. 18. "Invasion '68: Prague," photographs by Josef Koudelka of the 1968 Soviet occupation of the Czech city, through Dec. 28. "Jack Boul," scaled prints, drawings and paintings by the former AU professor, through Dec. 28. Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-2787.

Arlington Arts Center: "Unlimited Edition," A juried show of works in large, unnumbered editions, through Jan. 17. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800.

Sight

Aaron Gallery: "19th Annual Small & Miniature Show," through Dec. 31. 1717 Con-

MUSEUM | LARGE AND IN CHARGE



COURTESY HIRSHHORN

THE BODY ECLECTIC: If you missed "Untitled (Big Man)" the last time the strong-backed Hirshhorn curators dragged him onto the gallery floor — and really, how could you? — Ron Mueck's startling and unexpectedly moving 2000 sculpture is back as part of the museum's "Strange Bodies" show. This display of important figurative works opens on Thursday.

TheScene

Art Whino Gallery: "Skin Deep," kitsch-adjacent paintings about outer beauty by Jason Snyder, opens Sat., through Jan. 17. 173 Waterfront St., National Harbor; 301-567-8210, artwhino.com.

The Art League Gallery: "Virtue, Sin and the Balance Within," works by ceramicist Carlos Beltran Baldiviezo, through Jan. 5. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-683-1780, theartleague.com.

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Seascapes: Tryon & Sugimoto," through Jan. 25. "Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Johpur," sumptuous paintings from India, through Jan. 4. "Perspectives: Anish Kapoor," through July 19. 1050 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000.

ARTiculate Gallery: "My World, Your

World, Our World," architectural art of D.C. landmarks, ongoing. 1100 16th Street NW; 202-261-0204, wvsarts.org.

Conner Contemporary Art: "Zoe Charlton: Family," large-format drawings. "David Levinthal: War," photos of our latest war. "Gabriel de la Mora," self-portrait video art, through Jan. 3. 1358-60 Florida Ave. NE; 202-588-8750, connercontemporary.com.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Richard Avedon: Portraits of Power," through Jan. 25. "Wounded Cities: Photographs by Leo Rubinien." 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, corcoran.org.

D.C. Arts Center: "Pat Goslee: Flow," abstract paintings exploring the fine line between the physical and spiritual world, through Jan. 4. 2438 18th St. NW; 202-462-7833, dcartscenter.org.

DEA Museum: "Good Medicine, Bad Behavior: Drug Diversion in America,"

ongoing exhibits, through Dec. 31. 700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington; 202-307-3463, deamuseum.org.

District Fine Arts: "Sidney Lawrence — Recent Works," oil paintings and drawings, and an illustrated travel diary, through Jan. 17. 1639 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-328-9100, dfaonline.com.

Edison Place Gallery: "Aquifer," liquid sculptures, through Dec. 19. 702 8th St. NW; 202-234-7103, wpadc.org.

LAST CHANCE Ellipse Arts Center: "Uncommon Beauty," artwork taking on cultural taboos, through Fri. 4350 Fairfax Drive, Arlington; 703-228-7710, arlingtonarts.org/ellipseartcenter.htm.

Flashpoint Gallery: "Elena Volkova: Airscapes," photographs from the windows of airplanes, through Dec. 20. 916 G St. NW; 202-315-1305, flashpointdc.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Breaking

Continued on E18



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Rafer Guzmán, Newsday

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A.O. Scott, The New York Times

"BEYONCÉ BURNS A HOLE IN THE SCREEN."

Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

"JEFFREY WRIGHT IS SUPERB"

Joe Morgenstern, The Wall Street Journal



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E18 | EXPRESS | 12.11.2008 | THURSDAY

WeekendPass Entertainment

TheScene

Continued from E17

News: Renaissance Journalism and the Birth of the Newspaper," through Jan. 31. Shakespeare's First Folio and other works on permanent display, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

Foundry Gallery: "December Members Show," featuring works by 12 artists, through Dec. 28. 1314 18th St. NW; 202-463-0203, foundry-gallery.org.

Fraser Gallery: "Six Photographers," a group exhibition featuring six photog-

FILM | WELL, 'FILM'



COURTESY FOUND FOOTAGE

CUT! BURN!: Even before YouTube, people made ridiculous videos. The Found Footage Festival highlights the best of the worst. From "pre-lovemaking warm-up exercises" to pop songs for astrological signs, the showcase is at both Montgomery County and Arlington's Drafthouses on Saturday.

raphers who recently published books, including Joyce Tenneson, Maxwell MacKenzi and Washington Post columnist Frank Van Riper, through Jan. 3. 770 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-718-9651, thefrasergallery.com.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Guests of the Hills: Travelers and Recluses in Chinese Landscape Painting," through Feb. 22. "Winslow Homer: Four Views of Nature," through May 25. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-1000, asia.si.edu.

G Fine Art: "All at Once," paintings by Maggie Michael, through Jan. 3. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-462-1601, gfineartdc.com.

Gallery Neptune: "Another Level," paint-

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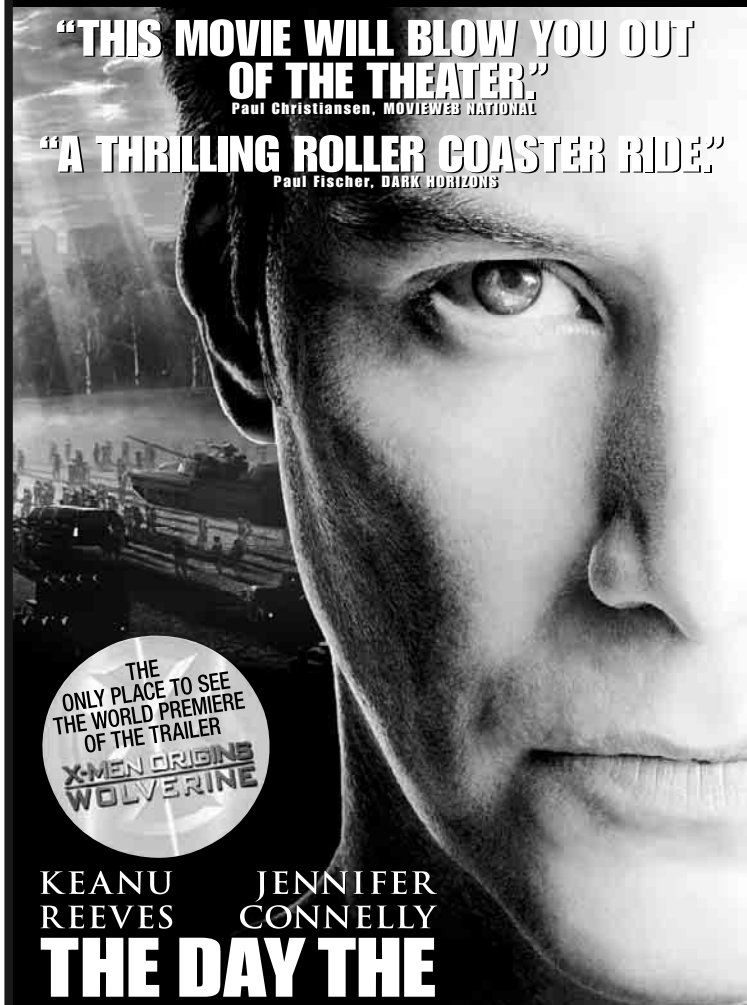
Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW TV

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Paul Fischer, DARK HORIZONS



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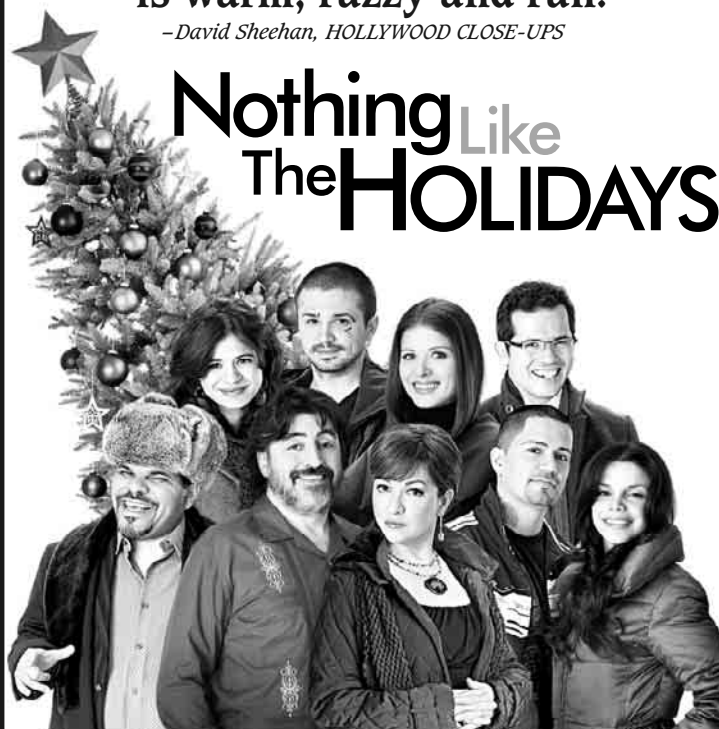
-Maria Salas, TERRA.COM

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-Leonard Maltin, ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT

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-David Sheehan, HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS



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TheScene

ings by John Aquilino, through Dec. 20.
5001 Wilson Lane, Bethesda; 301-718-0809, galleryneptune.com.

Goethe-Institut: "A Disenchanted Playroom," Color portraits of children by Wolfram Hahn critique contemporary television culture, through Dec. 19. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200.

Govinda Gallery: "Kaleidoscope Eyes: A Day in the Life of Sgt. Pepper," rare photographs taken at Abbey Road Studios in 1967, through Dec. 23. 1227 34th St. NW;

CABARET | LOVE IS IN THE AIR

JAY WESTHAUSER

IT SURE IS! The title of MetroStage's current production says it all: "Isn't It Romantic" gathers a bouquet of love-themed standards from some of America's greatest composers for pretty people to sing. The show runs through Dec. 21.

202-333-1180.

H&F Fine Arts: "Suspended Cosmos," Alan Binstock's translucent sculptures. "Lifes's Many Layers," layered images inspired by Imicro and macro worlds by Joan Belmar, both through Jan. 11. 3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mount Rainier, Md.; 301-887-0080, hffinearts.com.

Healing Arts Gallery, Smith Farm Center: "Visions of Paradise: National Geographic Contemporary Masters," through Jan. 2. 1632 U St. NW; 202-483-8600, smithfarm.com.

Hemphill Fine Art: "Drive-In Theaters & Portraits," tricky but gorgeous photo

Continued on E20

TIME
Richard Corliss
"ENTHRALLING."

Newsweek
David Ansen
**"IT'S EPIC.
SHAMELESSLY ENTERTAINING."**

The New York Times
Manohla Dargis
**"...A TESTAMENT TO MOVIE LOVE
AT ITS MOST DEVOUT."**

Chicago Sun-Times
Roger Ebert
"EXHILARATING."

NICOLE KIDMAN HUGH JACKMAN
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Julia Child by Hans Namuth (*detail*), gelatin silver print, 1977. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of the estate of Hans Namuth © Hans Namuth Ltd.

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CADILLAC RECORDS (R)
(I) 12:10, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R)
(I) 12:00, 2:40, 5:30, 8:00
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:15, 7:30
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)
12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50
BOLT (PG)
12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40
MADAGASCAR:
ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
12:20, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30

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RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)
5:15, 7:30
Starts Friday: MILK (R)

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
6:30 PM
A CHRISTMAS TALE (NR)
1:30, 5:00, 8:30
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 7:30, 9:15,
10:10
MILK (R)
12:15, 1:15, 3:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:00,
9:50
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK (R)
1:05, 6:50
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R)
3:50, 9:40
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED
PAJAMAS (PG-13)
2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:20

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

BOLT (PG)
3:10, 5:20, 7:30
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
2:30, 5:00, 7:25
MADAGASCAR:
ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG)
3:05, 5:10, 7:15

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
9:45, 10:00, 12:10, 12:30, 2:35, 4:30,
5:05, 7:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:10
AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
9:40, 1:00, 4:15, 8:00
I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)
9:55, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
10:05, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:35
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R)
9:50, 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

MILK (R)
12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45,
9:45
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00
SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK (R)
1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55
ANITA O'DAY:
LIFE OF A JAZZ SINGER (NR)
2:00PM
SAVE ME (NR)
12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
WAR CHILD (PG-13)
12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:35



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SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX
EXPERIENCE (PG13) 12:01 AM

IMAX MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA:
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG)
1:30, 4:15

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 3:15, 5:40, 8:05
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13)
12:01 AM

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 6:50,
9:40
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 1:15, 2:30, 4:20, 5:20, 7:20, 8:20, 10:15
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 4:00, 7:40
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:40, 4:00, 5:25, 9:00
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 1:20, 2:40, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:35,
9:05, 10:05
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:35, 5:15, 7:25, 8:00, 10:00
BOLT (PG) 2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:25, 2:05, 4:15, 4:50, 7:55, 9:50
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:00, 2:00, 3:40, 4:40, 6:20, 7:15,
9:10, 9:50
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 2:20, 4:45
ROLE MODELS (R) 1:20, 4:05, 7:00, 9:30
SOUL MEN (R) 1:50, 4:35, 7:30, 10:05
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR (G) 1:35, 4:30

AMC SELECT
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 1:10, 2:10, 4:10, 5:10, 7:10, 8:10, 10:10
NOBEL SON (R) 1:05, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG13) 7:10, 9:45

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
1 (888) AMC-4FUN

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX
EXPERIENCE (PG13) 12:01 AM

IMAX MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA:
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG)
1:55, 4:25

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15,
9:45

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:00, 5:00, 9:00
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:25
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
BOLT (PG) 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:40, 4:35, 6:10, 7:35, 9:15, 10:40
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:30, 5:15, 6:15, 8:00, 9:00, 10:50
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 12:50, 3:15
ROLE MODELS (R) 1:35, 4:50, 7:50, 10:15
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR (G) 1:00, 3:40

AMC SELECT
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10
NOBEL SON (R) 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 3:00, 5:30, 8:00,
10:20

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:20, 7:00, 10:30
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 5:05, 7:40
BOLT (PG) 2:00, 4:30
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:05, 3:05, 4:40, 5:40, 8:15, 10:15
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 3:05, 4:35, 8:15
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:55
ROLE MODELS (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30
ZACK AND MIRI (R) 6:55

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:10, 1:55, 3:50, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45, 9:40,
10:25
NOBEL SON (R) 2:10, 4:45, 7:25

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX
EXPERIENCE (PG13) / 12:01 AM

IMAX MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA:
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG)
2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20,
9:40

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) /
12:01 AM
DELGO (PG) / 12:01 AM
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) / 12:01 AM

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) 2:00, 4:20, 6:50,
9:10
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) / 2:05, 4:40, 7:30, 10:25
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 6:15, 9:45
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:00, 4:30, 7:55
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 1:55, 2:50, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:40,
9:15, 10:10
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 1:40, 2:45, 4:25, 5:20, 6:55, 7:45, 9:35,
10:15
BOLT (PG) 1:35, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:05, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:50, 2:30, 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50,
9:50, 10:20
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 1:25, 3:55
ROLE MODELS (R) 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:20

AMC SELECT

CADILLAC RECORDS (R) / 1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45
NOBEL SON (R) 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 3:00, 5:20, 7:40
BOLT (PG) 2:40, 4:00, 4:50, 6:30, 7:10
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR (G) 3:10, 5:40
NIGHTS IN RODANTHE (PG13) 8:10

AMC SELECT
CHANGELING (R) 4:10, 7:20
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30
THE DUCHESS (PG13) 2:50, 5:30, 8:00
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) 5:05, 7:50

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 9:50
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 9:45
BOLT (PG) 12:10, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 12:50, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40,
10:00
ROLE MODELS (R) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
SOUL MEN (R) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55

AMC SELECT
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15,
10:15
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:40
I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:25

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:25, 7:20, 8:05
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R) 2:00, 4:35, 7:15
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (PG13) 1:50, 4:20, 7:05
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7:10

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:45, 5:20, 8:00

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 12:50, 3:15, 5:50,
8:15, 10:35

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) /
12:01 AM

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) / 12:01 AM
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) / 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 12:35, 4:00, 7:30, 8:30, 10:55
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 12:30, 1:45, 2:45, 4:10, 5:25, 6:30,
7:50, 8:45, 10:15, 10:55
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
BOLT (PG) 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30
TWILIGHT (PG13) 12:20, 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 5:55, 7:20, 8:50, 10:05
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 12:30, 1:35, 3:00, 4:20, 5:35, 7:10,
8:25, 9:50, 11:00
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 12:40, 1:50, 2:55, 4:05,
6:15, 8:35, 10:45
ROLE MODELS (R) 1:00, 3:25, 5:55, 8:20, 10:50

AMC SELECT
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) / 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55
NOBEL SON (R) / 12:25, 3:05, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jennifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) / 2:50, 5:30, 8:00
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:10, 7:00
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 3:20, 5:40, 7:50
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:00, 4:30
BOLT (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 6:50
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D
BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20,
9:40

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) /
12:01 AM

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) 1:40, 4:05, 6:35,
9:00
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) / 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 1:00, 4:30, 5:30, 8:00, 9:05
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 2:30, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 1:25, 3:45, 8:25, 10:45
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:25, 9:55
BOLT (PG) 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:10, 2:35, 3:55, 5:20, 7:05, 8:05, 9:50
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 1:05, 2:25, 3:35, 4:55, 6:05, 7:30,
8:35, 10:00
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 1:15, 2:50, 3:40, 5:00,
5:55, 8:10, 10:25
ROLE MODELS (R) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR (G) 2:40

AMC SELECT
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) / 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
NOBEL SON (R) 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35
CHANGELING (R) 7:15, 10:20

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:15, 7:00
FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG13) 2:05, 4:40, 7:25
BOLT (PG) 2:15, 4:35, 7:15
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 2:10, 4:30, 7:05



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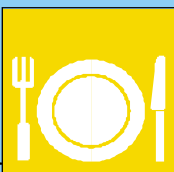


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Chantilly 703-378-1717	Stafford 540-658-9940
Fairfax 703-385-2965	Vienna 703-255-1001

Eight locations, 34 years in business, more than 1 million Breakfast Burritos served—the numbers don't lie. Anita's has earned a loyal following for two reasons: good, reasonably priced food and friendly, reliable service. This family-owned outfit pleases the masses three meals a day, seven days a week with its unique, robustly flavored New Mexican-style food starring Anita's trademark New Mexico-style red and green chiles. Regulars rave about the enchiladas, served in the traditional rolled style or baked into a delectable New Mexican-style casserole. Jumbo Burritos (for just \$5.79) come bursting with beans, rice, cheese, pico de gallo, lettuce, sour cream, and your choice of meats, including shredded beef, seasoned chicken, carne adovada, green chile pork, and BBQ pork. And don't miss the Carne Adivada—succulent pork marinated in red and green chiles for a full day, then baked to tender perfection till it falls from the bone. And breakfast is wildly popular. Check out Anita's and you'll see why.

ABOUT THIS SECTION: This advertising section was written by **Beth Hanlon**, a local freelance writer, in conjunction with the advertising special sections department of Express and did not involve the editorial department of this newspaper. For more information or advertising opportunities, contact Renee Curlee at 301.917.5085.

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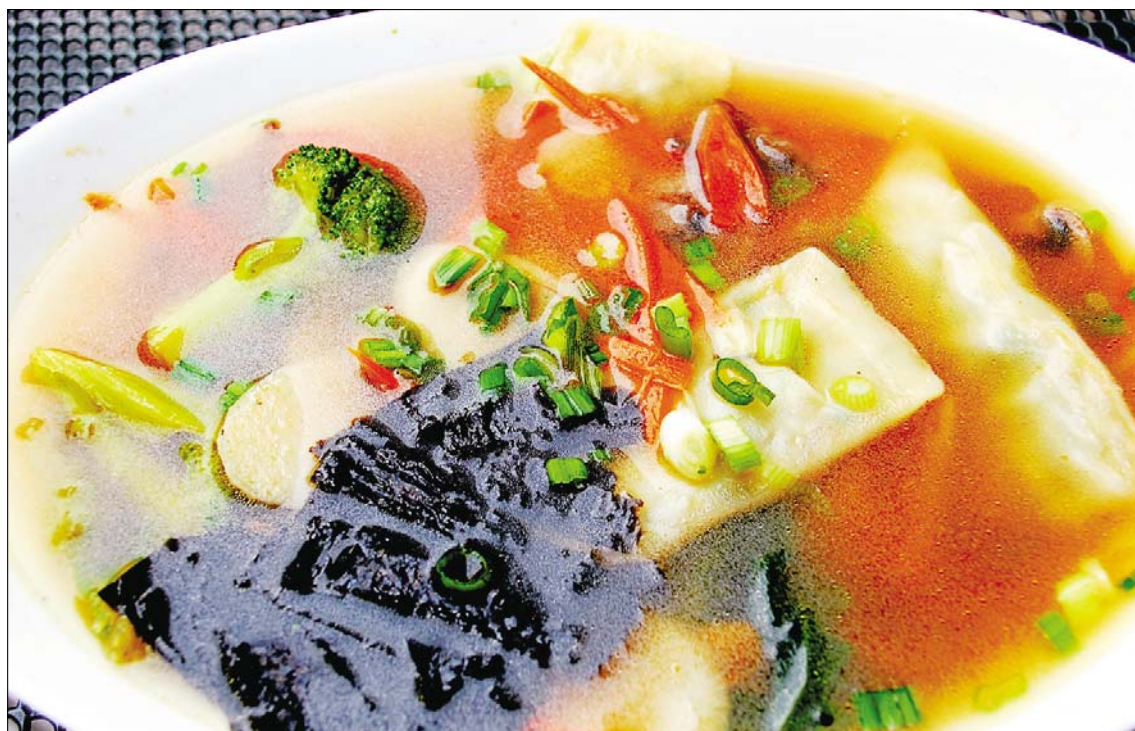


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MELT AWAY THE CHILL: Selections like Java Green's mandoo dumpling soup, above, prove that creativity in culinary choices isn't a necessary sacrifice to the cold weather; many area restaurants cater to the challenge of warming frigid patrons.

Love by the Ladle

D.C. chefs help you fight the cold with an array of savory soups

A FULL PLATE | Getting up for work is particularly tough on bitterly cold Washington winter days.

The walk from apartment to Metro. The windchills. The constant threat of "wintry mix" — not pristine snow, but disgusting sleet/ice/freezing rain. The other cold, grumpy Washingtonians who'll maul you with their Vera Bradley bags if it means getting a seat on the metro.

This is the sort of day that calls for a truly great bowl of soup. Hearty soup that warms the insides and calms the nerves. D.C.'s options for hot meals in a bowl are varied, so we've narrowed them down to a few tasty picks.

Chinatown's Full Kee offers Hong Kong-style soups at less than \$6 a pop. The shrimp dumpling noodle soup is extremely filling. Perfectly wrapped dumplings of whole shrimp, pork, ginger and sparse slivers of shiitake mushrooms swim in a savory broth subtly flavored by scallions.

For the noodles, choose from egg noodles or thin or thick rice noodles. Other Hong Kong options include roasted-duck noodle soup and fish-balls noodle soup.

Fantastic vegetarian soups can be found downtown at Java Green. This all-vegetarian, mostly-vegan café offers fresh sandwiches, but its real draw is flavorful Korean food. The mandoo dumpling soup is perfection in a bowl. Steamed mandoo dumplings — (essentially Asian pierogis) — join carrots, seaweed, scallions, and starchy brown-rice "cakes."

The dumplings are smooth enough to melt in your mouth, yet their structure holds up to the broth, avoiding becoming soggy or falling apart. The broth, an interesting mix of sweet and earthy flavors, is made even better with a splash of Java's housemade hot sauce.

At Alexandria's Farrah Olivia, hearty soup takes a completely different form. The restaurant's latest painted soup is a testament to Chef Morou Ouattara's unpredictability.

Ouattara takes two no-frills Mexican comfort foods — black-

bean soup and tortilla soup — and transforms them into luxury.

The half-black bean/half-tortilla soup is presented as a yin-yang, with two dollops — one of white-cheddar sour cream and one of pureed red pepper, yellow cheddar and tasso ham — forming the dots. Both soups are incredibly velvety; Ouattara strains them through a chinoise to achieve this creaminess.

By design, every section of the soup meshes perfectly together. Ingredients like epazote flavor both soups to promote continuity. (Epazote is a pungent Mexican herb that some say has a flavor of citrusy gasoline.) Hot peppers tie it all together, with jalapenos heating the black-bean half and New Mexican red chiles igniting the tortilla half.

SUEMEDHA SOOD

→ *Full Kee, 509 H St. NW; 202-371-2233. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*

→ *Java Green Café, 1020 19th St. NW; 202-775-8899. (Farragut North/Farragut West)*

→ *Farrah Olivia, 600 Franklin St., Alexandria; 703-778-2233. (King Street)*



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THE EDUCATED PALATE Wine Guild Program

Stratford University invites aspiring sommeliers and wine lovers to take part in its new International Wine Guild program, an addition to the school's Culinary Arts Department. The IWG program,



Dining budgets get a bailout at Latin Concepts restaurants this week.

open to both Stratford students and the general public, offers intensive two-day courses in wine and spirits education.

The courses cover everything from how wines are made and where they come from to the enological considerations of geography and climate. Students can also learn about wine tasting and food pairing. Professor Jeremy Corn, a chef and sommelier trained in Bor-

deaux, will be teaching three levels of this class. (ss)

→ [Stratford University](http://StratfordUniversity.edu), 7777 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church; 703-734-5303, stratford.edu.

YOU PROBABLY NEED ONE Recession = Drink Specials

Failing economy got ya down? Latin Concepts feels your pain. That's why the restaurant group is offering drink specials to help you drown your economic sorrows.

On Sunday through Thursday, Ceviche, Chi Cha Lounge, Gazuza and Guarapo are serving a signature Más mojito along with three assorted empanadas for just \$9. On Mondays, all Latin Concepts locations are pouring half-priced wine (and hookahs for the restaurants that do hookahs). On Tuesdays, Ceviche, Chi Cha, Guarapo and Yaku are offering three-course dinners for \$25. And on Saturdays and Sundays at Ceviche and Chi Cha, enjoy complimentary sangria with every entrée between 5 and 7 p.m. (ss)

→ See Latinconcepts.com/page.php?sec_id=9&art_id=133 for details and hours.

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CLASS UNION: Henry Allard and James Marshall's beloved children's book comes to life with "Miss Nelson Is Missing" at Imagination Stage. Some elementary school kids regret taking advantage of their sweet teacher when the meanest substitute in the world, Miss Viola Swamp (she's up there with Darth Vader and Jafar), shows up to teach their class.

TheScene

Continued from E20

Health: "Wonders of Science," ongoing. 6th & E streets NW; 202-334-1201, koshland-science-museum.org.

Library of Congress: "Creating the United States," American treasures including a draft of the Declaration of Independence, ongoing. 101 1st St. SE; 202-707-4604, loc.gov.

Marsha Mateyka Gallery: "Rock and Water: New Photoworks" by Athena Tacha, through Dec. 18. 2012 R St. NW; 202-328-0088.

McLean Project for the Arts/McLean Community Center: "Aimee Helen Koch: Undressed," visually arresting photographs depict clothes, but not the wearer. "Georgia Goldberg: Light, Shadow and Air," an entire gallery installation focusing on making the invisible visible. "Ten Year Chip: Photographs by Michael Mendez," photographs using experimental techniques, all through Dec. 20. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean; 703-790-1953.

National Academy of Sciences: "The Theater of Insects," Jo Whaley's luminous photos of insects, through Dec. 10. "Tornadoes: Paintings by John Brosio,"

through Jan. 19. "An Iconography of Contagion: 20th-Century Health Posters and the Visual Representation of Infectious Disease," through Dec. 19. 2100 C St. NW; 202-334-2436, nasonline.org.

National Air and Space Museum: Ongoing exhibits. 7th Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, nasm.si.edu.

National Aquarium: Celebrate America's aquatic treasures in this beautiful refurbished underground space, ongoing. 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-482-2825, nationalaquarium.com.

National Building Museum: "Green Community" explores communities united by a quest for ecological sustainability, through Oct. 25, 2009. "Cityscapes Revealed: Highlights From the Collection," "Investigating Where We Live," "Washington, Symbol and City," ongoing. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art, East Building: "George de Forest Brush: The Indian Paintings," through Jan. 4. "Small French Paintings," permanent exhibit. "Pompeii and the Roman Villa: Art and Culture Around the Bay of Naples," through March 22. 4th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, nga.gov. "Jan Lievens: A Dutch Master Rediscovered," opens Sun., through Jan. 11. West Building: "Oceans, Rivers, and Skies: Ansel

Adams, Robert Adams, and Alfred Stieglitz," black and white landscape photographs, through March 15. 6th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, nga.gov.

National Geographic: "Odysseys and Photographs — Masters From the National Geographic Archives," through Jan. 4. "Whales | Tohora," stories, skeletons and interactive objects, through Jan. 18. 1145 17th St. NW; 202-857-7588, nationalgeographic.com/museum.

National Museum of African Art: "Ttxt-Styles: Fashioning Identity," African culture through textiles, through Dec. 8. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, africa.si.edu.

National Museum of American History: The newly light-filled space contains an array of ongoing exhibitions, including "The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem," "Science in American Life," "Bon Appetit! Julia Child's Kitchen at the Smithsonian," the Declaration of Independence and many more, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, americanhistory.si.edu.

National Museum of Crime & Punishment: Permanent exhibit, various displays on the history of crime, crime-fighting and punishment in the United States,

Continued on E27

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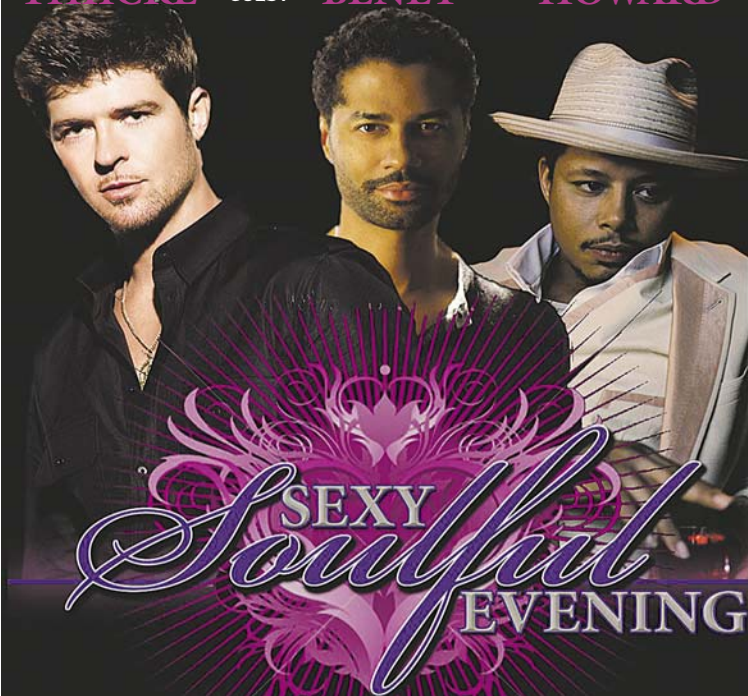
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Bill Viola's *The Reflecting Pool*—*Collected Works* Thursday, December 11, 6 p.m. FREE.

Each of the five pieces in Bill Viola's *The Reflecting Pool*—*Collected Works* (1977–80) represents a stage in a personal journey which is joined to the others through themes of transition and change. 62 minutes.

McEvoy Auditorium, Lower Level



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Bill Viola, *The Reflecting Pool*, 1977–79, videotape, color, mono sound, 7 minutes. Photo: Kira Perov

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Illustration by Matt Mahurin

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Arena Stage Where American Theater Lives

TheScene

Continued from E25

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National Museum of Health and Medicine: Permanent exhibit, displays about medicine, including the world's largest and most representative collection of microscopes, human bodies and skeletons, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Building 54; 202-782-2200, nlm.nih.gov/hmd/medtour/nmhm.html.

National Museum of the American Indian: Displays about the history and culture of American Indians, 4th Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Natural History: "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," the dirt on dirt, through Jan. 3. Many ongoing and permanent displays, 10th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, mnh.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: "Role Models: Feminine Identity in Contemporary American Photography," through Jan. 25. "Mary Cassatt: Friends

GALLERY | THE AIR UP THERE

DENISE BOOKWALTER PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW: You'll be happy to hear that, at least according to the artists whose work is on display at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, "The Sky Is NOT the Limit." The prints and handmade paper pieces, like this intellectual snowflakeish display from Denise Bookwalter, above, look to the sky to investigate and celebrate all that is ethereal.

and Family," through Jan. 25. "Beyond Tradition: The Pueblo Pottery of Tammy Garcia," through Feb. 3. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Portraiture Now: Feature Photography," through Sept. 27. "One Life: The Mask of Lincoln," through July 5. "Four Indian Kings," through Jan. 25. "Women of Our Time: 20th Century Photographs," through Feb. 1. "Ballyhoo! Posters as Portraiture," through Feb. 8. "Tokens of Affection and Regard: Photographic Jewelry and Its Makers," through June 21. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, npg.si.edu.

Newseum: A popular museum of news tracing the history of journalism, with interactive exhibitions in 14 galleries, 15 theaters and two broadcast studios. "G-Men and Journalists," ongoing. 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386, newseum.org.

Phillips Collection: For "Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Over the River, a Work in Progress," the artistic team plans to suspend their fabric art over the Arkansas River — check in on their preparations

Continued on E29



meet the artist

Lawrence Weiner

Thursday, December 11
7 pm

A pivotal figure in contemporary art, Lawrence Weiner discusses his life and work, including two pieces that were recently acquired by the Hirshhorn and are on view in *The Panza Collection*.

Support for Meet the Artist is provided by the Steven and Heather Mnuchin Foundation.

Lawrence Weiner's *REDUCED*, Cat. No. 102, 1969, from the Hirshhorn's Collection, The Panza Collection. Photo by Lee Stalsworth.



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14 SUN ★ Bob Perilla's Big Hillbilly Bluegrass

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15 MON ★ Randy Barrett and Mama Tried

Bluegrass and traditional folk award winner Randy Barrett leads his band.

16 TUE ★ Encore Senior Singers' Chorale

Musicians over the age of 55 perform crowd-pleasing holiday music.

17 WED ★ Blue Sky 5

Vintage jazz and classic swing music that is made for dancing.

18 THU ★ Gospel Celebration: The Sweet Heaven Kings

Gospel brass and percussion ensemble performs holiday music.

19 FRI & 20 SAT ★ Holiday Vaudeville: Sean Grissom, the Alexandria Klezmet, and Rod Ferrone

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23 TUE ★ Carol Ringers and the Peace Ringers

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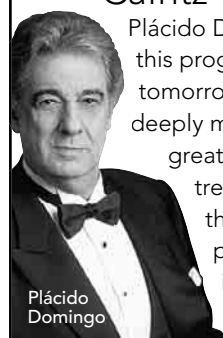


Tommy Tune

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PHOTOGRAPHY | SANDS OF TIME



SLOW CHANGE: It's not so easy to take a trip to Iran these days, but you can still get a glimpse into modern Iranian life. The photographs in "The Burden of Representation: Contemporary Iranian Photography" at Hillyer Art Space depict a culture trying to modernize and still respect the traditions of the past. Catch the show before it closes on Dec. 21.

TheScene

Continued from E27

for this unfinished work here, through Jan. 25. 1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151, phillipscollection.org.

Renwick Gallery: "Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Glass," through Jan. 11. American crafts and decorative arts, ongoing. 17th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu/renwick/index.cfm.

S. Dillon Ripley Center: "Road to Freedom," photographs of the civil rights movement. through March 9. 1100 Jefferson Dr. SW; 202-633-1000, si.edu/ripley.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Earth and Sky: Photographs by Barbara Bosworth," through Sun. "Georgia O'Keefe & Ansel Adams: Natural Affinities," through Jan. 4. "The Honor of Your Company Is Requested: President Lincoln's Inaugural Ball," through Jan. 18. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu. "Road to Freedom: Photographs of

the Civil Rights Movement, 1956-1968," through March 9. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-4751, nmaahc.si.edu.

Stanford in Washington Art Gallery: "Politics, etcetera," works commenting on our current political scene, through Jan. 31. 2661 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-6235.

Strathmore Fine Art Gallery: "75th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature," through Jan. 3. "Nebur Arellano: Timeless Filigree," works based on Incan carvings. "Works by Alice Hui & Jane Brashares," craftworks such as homemade papers, pots, vases and sculptures, through Jan. 3. 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda; 301-581-5200, strathmore.org.

Studio Gallery: "One Big, One Small," works focusing on perspectives featuring more than 30 artists, through Jan. 3. 2108 R St. NW; 202-232-8734, studiogallerydc.com.

Target Gallery: "5x5x(5): Small Works" tiny paintings, sculptures, ceramics and jewelry, through Jan. 11. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, torpedofactory.org.

Textile Museum: "Timbuktu to Tibet:

Rugs and Textiles of the Hajji Babas," explores rugs and textiles in diverse cultures, through March 8. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, textilemuseum.org.

Touchstone Gallery: "Small Works: Small Prices," artworks less than \$500, through Jan. 3. 406 7th St. NW; 202-347-2787, touchstonegallery.com.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "Windows to Wonderland," miniature trains run through models of Santa's Village and other holiday-themed locales, through Jan. 4. Permanent exhibitions of more than 4,000 plants and a tropical rain forest, ongoing. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, usbg.org.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: "A Dangerous Lie: Protocols of the Elders of Zion," "Genocide Emergency: Darfur, Sudan," "Remember the Children: Daniel's Story," "Witness to History: Documenting the Path of American Liberators," ongoing. Permanent exhibition of artifacts, photographs and oral histories. 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place (15th Street) SW; 202-488-0400, ushmm.org.

Washington Project for the Arts: "When Absence Becomes Presence,"

Continued on E30

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GALLERY | VENEERS



JASON SNYDER/COURTESY ART WHINO

BOO-HOO; POOR THEM: They
say beauty is only skin deep,
but some people use their good
looks to hide real feelings.
"Skin Deep," Jason Snyder's
disturbing, retro-tinged exhibit
at Art Whino Gallery, explores
the pain beautiful people often
experience beneath their make-
up and hairspray.

TheScene

Continued from E29

explores time-based art such as music,
film and readings, through Dec. 23. 2023
Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-234-7103,
wpadc.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Zenith for Real,"
grounded but whimsical works by Drew
Ernst, Robert Jackson and Donna
McCullough, through Jan. 4. 413 7th St.
NW; 202-783-2963, zenithgallery.com.

Stage

Alice: Round House Theatre reinterprets
Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland," through Dec. 28, \$25-\$60.
Round House Theatre Bethesda, 4545
East West Highway, Bethesda; 240-644-
1100, roundhousetheatre.org.

Altar Boyz: The story of a Christian boy
band that seriously rocks, through Jan. 3,
\$25-\$70. Bethesda Theatre, 7719 Wis-
consin Ave., Bethesda; 301-657-7827,
bethesdatheatre.org.

Blackbird: Scottish playwright David Har-
rower's controversial and mesmerizing
drama about love and regret stems from
an inappropriate relationship and a life-
changing confrontation, through Dec. 21.
Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-
332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

SATURDAY ONLY The Bloody,

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TheScene

FAMILY | NEW OLD STORY

Strange and Wicked Origins of St.

Nicholas: A Grimm Brothers-esque take on ol' St. Nick, 7, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15. Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; 800-494-8497, rorschachtheatre.com.

The Butterfingers Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree: Lee Mikeska Gardner directs William Gibson's story, which manages to combine traditional music, contemporary language, children, animals, a drum-playing Herod and a cherry tree, through Jan. 4, \$15-\$30. Rep Stage, Howard Community College, Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia; 410-772-4900, repstage.org.

A Christmas Carol: Ford's Theatre's annual production moves to new spot, through Dec. 28, \$33-\$65. Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; 202-547-1122, 877-487-8849, fords.org.

LAST CHANCE Christmas Revels: Fully costumed Renaissance theater piece with audience participation, through Sun., \$12-\$45. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW; 202-994-6800, lisner.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Elmo's Green Thumb: Go green, "Sesame Street" style, Thur 7 p.m.; Fri. 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sat.

Continued on E32

STAN BAROUH

MAD TIDINGS: Here to put a contemporary spin on the first Christmas is "The Butterfingers Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree," directed by Lee Mikeska Gardner and starring Tim Pabon, among others. It's at Howard Community College's Rep Stage.



ASK BETSY

About Student Loans

This column, contributed by American Student Assistance®, a non-profit that provides student loan borrowers with the education and encouragement they need to successfully manage their debt, is published in *The Express* every month. You can "Ask Betsy" questions about applying for student loans, repaying your loans, or what to do if you're having trouble paying your loans back. E-mail your questions to askbetsydc@amsa.com.



Payment Options

Dear Betsy,

Is there a way to work out loan payments that I can afford? I have a child and added expenses, like daycare. I need a payment I can afford to keep from defaulting on my student loan.

Thanks,
Gwendolyn



Dear Gwendolyn,

If standard repayment isn't working for you, you may have the option of switching to another type of repayment plan. Here are some details about these other options:

Extended Repayment

If you owe more than \$30,000 in federal student loans, the extended repayment option will stretch your repayment period to 25 years. This plan will reduce your monthly payments, but it will also increase the total amount of interest you repay over the life of your loan.

Graduated Repayment

This option allows you to pay lower amounts, as low as interest only, upfront for up to 4 years. Your payments then increase

gradually so that the loan is still repaid in 10 years. Graduated repayment also increases the total amount of interest you repay over the life of your loan.

Income-Sensitive Repayment

If your income is low, you may want to choose income-sensitive repayment. This option lets you pick a monthly payment equal to any amount between 4 percent and 25 percent of your gross monthly income. You may be able to use this option for up to 5 years, and it may extend your repayment term to up to 15 years. Income-sensitive repayment will increase the total amount of interest you repay over the life of your loan, as well.

Another option for you may be an economic hardship deferment, which is a temporary

break from repayment. During this break, you will not accrue any interest on your loan, so the amount you pay remains at its current level. Eligibility for this option is based on an individual's debt-to-income ratio. You can read more about it at www.amsa.com/bor/forms.

You can contact your loan servicer (the company to which you currently make your loan payments) to work out the best payment option for you. Your servicer can also tell you if you meet the criteria for an economic hardship deferment.

Feel free to contact me with any additional questions you might have!

Regards,
Betsy

Have a question about student loans? E-mail me at askbetsydc@amsa.com

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ROAD TRIP | MOMMY, WHICH ONE IS SANTA?


COURTESY BSO

SEEING RED — LOTS OF RED: For much of the year, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is stuck playing music by a bunch of talented but quite dead guys. But it's Christmastime, baby! BSO's Holiday Spectacular, at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, features a singing, dancing, holiday-themed variety show. 1212 Cathedral St., Baltimore, Md.; through Dec. 23, \$20; 410-783-8000, bsomusic.org.

TheScene

Continued from E31

10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m., Sun. 1 & 4:30 p.m., \$15-\$75. Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax; 703-993-3000, patriotcenter.com.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Footworks

Percussive Dance Ensemble: Tap and clog dancing styles from Ireland, England, South Africa, Canada and the U.S., Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m., \$22. Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; 202-269-1600, dance-place.org.

Frosty the Snowman: Frosty comes to life and makes mischief, through Jan. 4, \$15, 12 and younger \$12. Adventure Theatre, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur

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TheScene

Blvd., Glen Echo; 301-320-5331, adventuretheatre.org/frosty.html.

Glengarry Glen Ross: Five real estate salesmen fight for their lives in the cut-throat world of selling in David Mamet's scathing take on greed and desperation, opens Fri., through Dec. 20, \$30. Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St. NW; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

Grey Gardens: The cult documentary about Big and Little Edie Beale — impoverished and mentally unstable relatives of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy — becomes a musical, through Dec. 21, \$49-\$69. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

Gutenberg! The Musical!: A story about the invention of movable type, through Jan. 4, \$25. Landless Theatre Company, 2438 18th St. NW; landlesstheatrecompany.org.

Isn't it Romantic?: Songs of love from some of our most famous songwriters including Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hart, *Continued on E34*

EMO GODFATHER | WHY THE LONG FACE?



MARK SWANSON

AND DON'T DANCE: Hate the foot-staring emo children? Blame Jeremy Enigk. The former frontman of Sunny Day Real Estate influenced a generation with his emotive delivery and confessional lyrics. The '90s might be over, but Enigk still climbs onstage and tells hipster boys (arms crossed, expensive haircuts) and girls (bobbing heads, expensive black-framed glasses) his troubles as a reliable solo act. Feel his pain on Saturday at Jammin' Java.

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you learned
 by age 3

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2		8	3		5	6	
8			4		7		1
7		6			3		6
5			9	1			4
		7	2		6	9	2
	4		5		8		7

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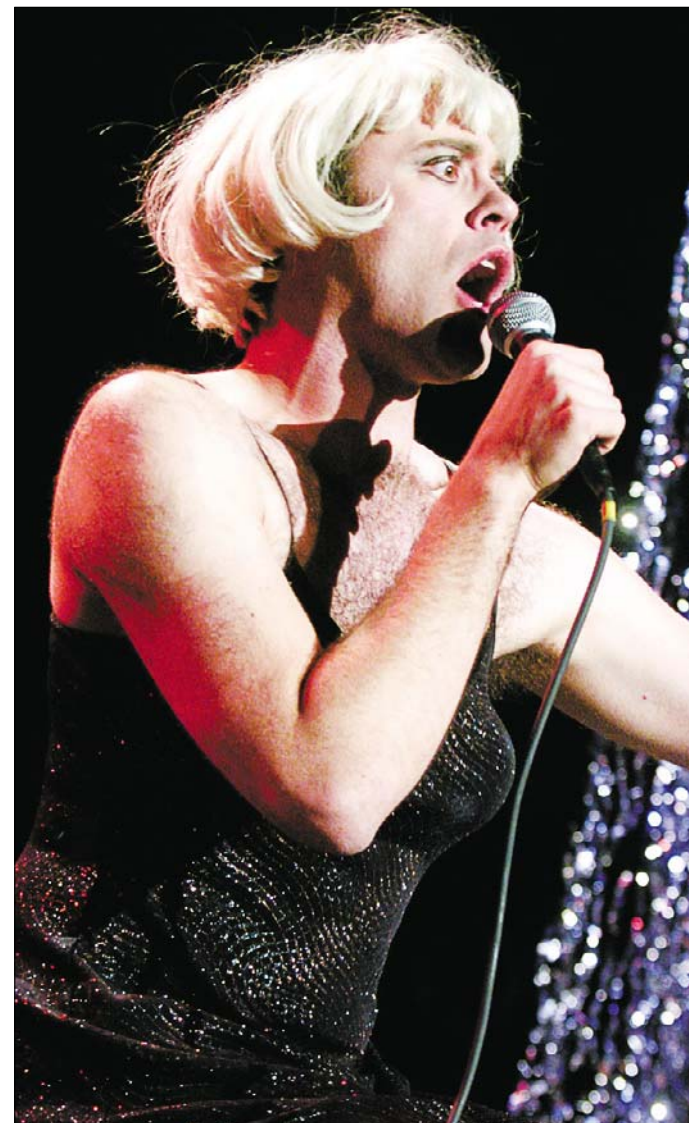
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WeekendPass

CABARET | A VERY HAIRY HOLIDAY



JACQUES-JEAN TIZOU

GOOD CHEER: You don't have to go to New York to see drag divas. Martha Graham Cracker will make her first D.C. appearance at Gala Theatre with a sassy cabaret performance sure to get you in a good mood. Until you learn your holiday bonus isn't coming this year, but we can't help you with that.

TheScene

Continued from E33

and George and Ira Gershwin, through Dec. 21, \$35. 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-548-9044, metrostage.org.

LAST CHANCE Kooza: Cirque du Soleil combines acrobatics and clowning in its latest touring production, through Sat., \$49.50-\$125; Plateau at National Harbor, 201 Harborview Ave., Oxon Hill; cirquedusoleil.com.

Les Miserables: The long-running musical hits Signature's stage in a spare but epic production by Eric Schaeffer, through Jan. 25, \$65-\$87. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-820-9771, signature-theatre.org.

Love, Peace and Robbery: Two ex-cons struggle to straighten out their lives in this

Keegan Theatre production of this very Irish black comedy, opens Fri., through Dec. 21, \$25. Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Martha Graham Cracker: Dito Van Reigersberg of Philadelphia's Pig IronTheater company brings his sassy drag-queen persona and cabaret act to D.C., \$20-\$25. GALA Theatre, 3333 14th St. NW; 202-234-7174, galatheatre.org.

WEEKENDS ONLY Miss Nelson Is Missing!: An elementary school class searches for its missing teacher after a mean substitute shows up, through Jan. 4, \$10-\$21. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, imaginationstage.org.

Next to Normal: The story of a "normal" family functioning in today's overstimulated society — sound familiar to anyone

WeekendPass

STAGE | HO, HO, AAAAAUGH!



COURTESY WIT

BAD SANTAS: Nauseated by Tiny Tim, Rudolph, George Bailey and the rest of the feel-good holiday entertainment gang? At Source Theatre, Washington Improv Theatre holds the antidote with "Seasonal Disorder," WIT's annual take on those not-Hallmark-appropriate holiday get-togethers.

TheScene

out there in the suburbs?, through Jan. 18. \$61-\$66. Arena Stage Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington; 202-248-3300, arenastage.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY The Nutcracker: Robert Joffrey stages the most famous Christmas ballet ever, with all attendant glitter, sparkles, sweets and wide-eyed children, Thu., 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sun. 1:30 & 7:30 p.m., \$47-\$150. Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600, kennedy-center.org.

The Penguin Story: A puppet show adapted from an old Bulgarian children's play about a group of mischievous penguins who set out to visit Santa Claus. For ages 3 and older, through Jan. 25, \$12 in advance, \$15 at door. Classika Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 800-494-8497, classika.org.

Peter Pan: The Musical: A high-flying adventure for kids, through Jan. 4, \$25-\$43. Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, olneytheatre.org.

Seasonal Disorder: Holiday-themed improv, through Dec. 27, \$5-\$15. Source Theater, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-204-

7770, washingtonimprovtheatre.com.

Steve Byrne: Stand-up by one of the stars of "The Real Wedding Crashers," Thu., 8:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 8 & 10:30 p.m.; Sun., 8 p.m., \$15-\$17. D.C. Improv, 1400 Connecticut Ave. NW; 209-296-7008, improv2.com.

Tales of Doomed Love: A cheery tale from Spooky Action Theatre, just in time for Christmas, through Dec. 21, \$15. Black Box Theatre at Montgomery College, East-West Highway & Chicago Ave.; 202-248-0647, spookyaction.org.

Twelfth Night: One of Shakespeare's most popular comedies is rife with the enduring themes of farce, including separated twins, cross-dressing for romantic purposes and mistaken identity, through Jan. 4. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122.

A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant: A Tom Cruise (and his friends) Christmas, through Jan. 4, \$25. Landless Theatre Company, 2438 18th St. NW; landlesstheatrecompany.org.

You Better Believe It. They Exist: A bilingual comedic feud between two sorceresses over who will help their new neighbor build a house, through Dec. 20, \$18. GALA Theatre-Tivoli, 3333 14th St. NW; 202-234-7174, galatheatre.org.



The National Museum of African American History and Culture presents

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GWAR w/ Kingdom of Sorrow & Toxic Holocaust Su 14

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DECEMBER

Corey Smith w/ Shane Hines and the Trance Th 18
Junior League Band • Ted Garber and the Working Class Heroes •
Shane Gamble *Early Show! 6pm Doors*..... F 19

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Late Show! 11pm Doors. Sponsored by BrightestYoungThings.com F 19

CSS *Early Show! 7pm Doors.* Sa 20

BLOWOFF feat. the DJ SOUNDS of
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Darkest Hour w/ The Red Chord •
 For the Fallen Dreams • Skeletonwitch • Rose Funeral Su 21

Hip Hop Harry *Matinee Show! 1:30pm Doors.* F 26

State Radio w/ Lionize *8pm Doors.* F 26

The Dance Party w/ New Rock Church of Fire & Crash Boom Bang Sa 27

Soulive w/ DJ Rekha Su 28

Clutch w/ Russian Circles • Viking Skull • Caverns M 29

JANUARY

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JANUARY 1

JANUARY 3 - SOLD OUT!

GOGOL BORDELLO F 2

Femi Kuti and the Positive Force F 9

The Speaks • Farewell Show! w/ Honor By August Sa 10

Strunz and Farah *This is a seated show.* W 14

Badfish, A Tribute to Sublime w/ Special Guests: Scotty Don't Th 15

Tea Leaf Green Sa 24

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